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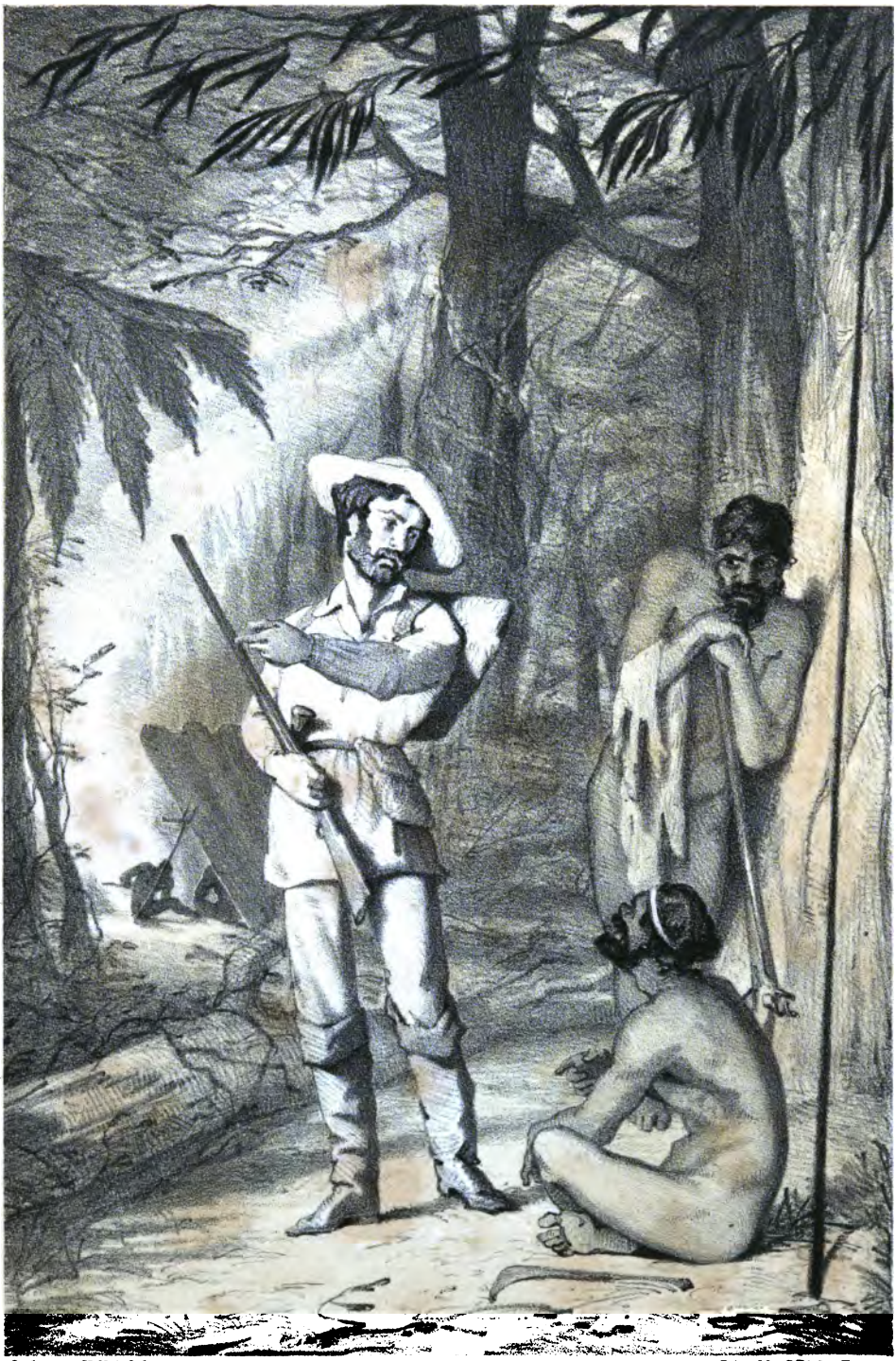

On Stone by H. Hainſtelin.

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FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE

IN

AUSTRALIA FELIX,

COMPRISING

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT AND ITS PRESENT POSITION, WITH MANY PARTICULARS INTERESTING TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

BY

G. H. HAYDON.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY

HENRY HAINSSELIN,

FROM SKETCHES MADE ON THE SPOT BY THE AUTHOR.

LONDON:
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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

ERRATA.

Page 4, line 19, for *are*, read *is*.
Page 8, line 1, for *manufacturing and roofing with tiles*, read *manufacturing tiles for roofing;* line 21, for *Their*, read *There*.
Page 17, line 4, for *when no*, read *where no*.
Page 24, line 1, for *Ophthelmia*, read *Ophthalmia*.
Page 31, line 30, after the word *required*, a comma.
Page 48, line 4, for *egg*, read *eggs*.
Page 89, line 23, for *Nepeau*, read *Nepean*.
Page 103, line 24, for *song's*, read *songs*.
Page 108, line 27, for *is*, read *are*.
Page 115, line 12, for *to*, read *no*; line 17, for *were*, read *where*.
Page 116, line 19, leave out the word *adopted*.
Page 119, line 2, for *bitting*, read *biting*.
Page 122, line 26, for *after a few months keeping is a good substance for bread*, read *and after a few months' use is a good substitute for bread*.
Page 126, line 30, for *horses refuses*, read *horses refused*.
Page 150, line 24, for *ever*, read *never*.

INTRODUCTION.

My object in writing the following pages, is to give the most recent and authentic information concerning the Province of Australia Felix. Having been a resident for some years in this fine portion of the British dominions, I have had opportunities of witnessing the great changes which have taken place in its affairs; during that period I have seen it sink for a season into a state of nearly universal bankruptcy—not from any dearth of natural resources—not from its inaptitude for colonization—but rather from that headstrong spirit of speculation, which in all newly-formed communities is generally found to prevail. This was doubtless the main cause of the late unfortunate crisis; that it was not the only source of its depression the reader will perceive by perusing the following pages.

It ought also to be remembered, that at the time affairs in Australia Felix assumed such a desponding aspect; all the Australian colonies were suffering in a nearly similar manner. I will merely allude to the state of the pet colony of South Australia, simply because this part of New Holland was settled about the same period as Australia Felix, the charter to the South Australian Company being granted in 1835. This colony, of which Adelaide is the capital, after receiving every aid that the powerful and universal agency

of the British press could afford, supported by a wealthy landed proprietary in England, and cherished by legislative enactments, was declared to have been at the period to which I refer, in as bad, if not a worse state, than neglected Australia Felix.

But those days of adversity are passed; both these colonies are in a much healthier state, and it is to be hoped the severe lesson of experience the colonists have learned may act beneficially on them in future.

Numerous works have appeared on the subject of emigration to the Australian colonies, some evidently puffs, emanating from interested parties; others abounding in the most wild and dreamy imaginations, having to all appearance been written by persons, who evidently were never out of their own country. Writers of this description have been of the greatest injury to these colonies; deceiving the poor, but respectable emigrant, with the idea that he is proceeding to a land "flowing with milk and honey," but he finds on his arrival that an industrious and steady course of life are equally as necessary as in the mother country to gain a mere livelihood. The idea which he had been led to entertain of making a rapid fortune fades away before the realities of a colonial life. He becomes a disappointed man, and dwindles down into a lazy shepherd, spending all his wages in ardent spirits. This is the fate of many who on their arrival, had they not been puffed up with such foolish hopes, might have done well.

I have in this volume, touched on few subjects which did not come immediately under my own observation, and therefore trust that the facts which I have adduced will be useful to those contemplating emigration, and amusing to others who are interested in our colonies, but who have no inclination to leave the solid comforts of an English home.

CHAPTER I.

THE province of Australia Felix, also known as Port Philip, is situated on the south-east coast of New South Wales, between the 141st and 146th degree of east longitude. It is bounded on the south by Bass's Straits, on the west by South Australia, the River Murray in the 36th degree of south latitude forms its northern limit, and the swampy river in the 141st degree of east longitude bounds it to the eastward. It occupies a space of thirty thousand square miles, or twenty millions of acres. The greatest extent from east to west, is two hundred and sixty miles; from north to south, one hundred and sixty miles. It commands a navigable sea coast of five hundred miles, and abounds with harbours and roadsteads.

For many years before Port Philip was settled, sealers and barkers from Van Diemen's Land had visited its shores and also the neighbouring harbour of Westernport. These wanderers returning with a favorable account of the country, induced a few enterprising colonists from that Island to make efforts for the formation of a settlement somewhere on the coast; their own lands being overstocked, did not afford sufficient nourishment for their fast-increasing flocks and herds. Its permanent occupation was effected by these

men, notwithstanding several efforts made by government to form settlements in this quarter had been unsuccessful.

On the 12th of May, 1835, Mr. John Batman was dispatched to Port Philip as agent for an association, and succeeded in bartering with the natives for 600,000 acres of land in the neighbourhood of this port. The land was soon stocked with cattle and sheep, and the province was thus for the first time brought into general notice. Emigrants flocked here from all the neighbouring colonies, and the number of inhabitants increased so fast as to induce the governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, to write to the Colonial Office begging them to recognise its rich pastoral lands as a province dependent on New South Wales. This measure was taken, and Australia Felix has since remained in this unenviable position with the convict colony.

Sir Richard Bourke in a visit he paid the infant settlement, took active measures for the formation of a town near the splendid port. The result of his endeavours were very satisfactory. The site of the present town of Melbourne was fixed on and properly surveyed, and houses and huts soon covered the face of this part of the country. In 1837 the town had been formed about fifteen months, and there were then one hundred houses. The increase since that period has been amazing. It is beautifully situated on hills close to the Yarra Yarra, a river which empties itself into Hobson's Bay, in the harbour of Port Philip, eight miles below the town. Vessels of one hundred and fifty to two hundred tons come up to the wharf at Melbourne. The town at present has much the appearance of a modern English one; the principal part of the houses and other buildings are constructed of brick, although there are several handsome stone edifices not by any means inferior

to those we meet with in our lesser English towns. There are churches and chapels for the religious exercise of almost all denominations of Christians. A very handsome Roman catholic chapel was in the course of erection when the writer left in January, 1845. This, when finished, will be by far the most beautiful building in Melbourne. It reflects little credit on the Episcopalian inhabitants to say that their church has been in an unfinished state for nearly five years, although divine service is regularly performed there. A great number of its luke-warm members visit the Wesleyan congregation, who form a very respectable portion of the population, and who have erected a commodious and neat place of worship. The Independents have a very neat brick building for the performance of their service. The Scotch Kirk is a handsome brick building, forming one of the most attractive features in Melbourne when viewed from the bay of Port Philip. The new Union Bank of Australia is a fine stone building, as is also the new Court House and Jail, said to have been designed by Judge Willis. The Mechanic's Institution, supported by subscription, reflects great credit on the inhabitants of Melbourne, as it was one of the first public buildings erected.

Most of the houses in the town are built in a substantial manner of brick or stone, but there are houses built of wood, although a great number of these are gradually disappearing. Amongst the numerous dwellings which are springing up in every direction, but few of them are of wood, as it is now as cheap to build with brick. In case of a fire breaking out it is to be feared it would do an incalculable amount of mischief, as all the houses, with but few exceptions, are roofed with shingles. The inhabitants will discover, when perhaps too late, the necessity of manu-

facturing and roofing with tiles, slate being a very expensive commodity.

Port Philip is the principal harbour in the province. It has all the appearance of an inland sea, as it contains eight hundred and seventy-five square miles of water, and is capable of sheltering the whole of the navy of Great Britain. The entrance from the sea is narrow, not more than two miles in width, but notwithstanding this, the navigation is by no means difficult. An efficient pilot establishment renders the passage of vessels from the Heads to Hobson's Bay an easy task. The tide seeking egress by so confined an outlet, flows with amazing force, and when a breeze is blowing from the southward creates a dangerous tide ripple. Vessels endeavouring to enter at ebb tide, even with an eight-knot breeze in their favour, are very often swept out to sea again. The quarter of the port in which the greater part of the shipping lies is in Hobson's Bay, opposite the settlement of Williamstown; here vessels of 1,300 tons may anchor with perfect safety within four miles of Melbourne by land, and within two of Williamstown. Their is a tradition amongst the natives of this part of the country, that the whole space now occupied by the bay of Port Philip was once dry land, and that the sea overstepping its natural boundary burst through the part of the coast now forming the entrance to the harbour and flooded the whole country and drowned great numbers of people.

Sir Thomas Mitchell, who discovered and traversed a great part of the back country from Port Philip, gave it the much more appropriate name of Australia Felix. The country bordering upon the bay, forms only a district of this territory under the old title of Port Philip. The writer has been thus particular in describing the relation this noble port bears to Australia Felix on account of the

great errors which have been made by those unacquainted with the geographical position of the Australian colonies. It is no uncommon occurrence to hear one place confounded with the other, when in point of fact, they may be many hundreds or thousands of miles apart. Thus it is nothing uncommon to see letters, &c. directed to Port Philip, South Australia, It should be recollected, that the Island of New Holland, on which these colonies are planted, comprises an extent of country nearly as large as the whole of Europe, of course possessing various climates—very hot to the northward, and temperate as we proceed further south.

As it may be useful to many to possess a slight knowledge of the position of our different settlements on this great island, the following brief sketch of our colonies I trust will prove acceptable.

New South Wales comprises all that extent of country between Cape York on the east coast in 10° 37′ south latitude to the shores of Bass's Straits, and westward as far as 141° east longitude. It occupies a space of country three times as large as England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Australia Felix, as before stated, is a province of New South Wales; situated about seven hundred miles from Sydney, the seat of government, and having only experienced evil from the connection, it will not excite surprise that the inhabitants of this fine province are using every lawful endeavour, by petition and otherwise, to shake off the union.

The colony, next in importance, is South Australia, of which Adelaide is the capital. This portion of New Holland was discovered in the year 1802, by Captain Matthew Flinders. It is situated in a south-eastern direction, along the southern shore of Australia, comprehending the space

between 132 and 141 degrees of east longitude. It lies between Swan River and New South Wales, and forms an extent of country containing an area of nearly 300,000 square miles, or 192,000,000 acres.

Western Australia comprising Swan River and King George's Sound, includes all that portion of New Holland which is situated to the westward of the 129th degree of longitude; its greatest length from north to south is 1280 miles, and from east to west 800 miles.

The settlement of Essington to the north of New Holland, has excited so little attention, that it is only necessary to mention it as completing the list of all the colonies on the island of New Holland. Port Essington, it appears, is shortly going to be made a penal settlement of, and is to be a free port.

Adjacent is the island of Van Diemen's Land, a convict colony, and Flinder's island, also on which the remnant of the aboriginal inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land were placed by government, and who will engage my attention in the course of these pages.

The New Zealand islands in these seas, on which there were several British settlements, and which have assumed some notoriety lately, render it almost unnecessary for me to warn intending emigrants from risking any property there until some definite steps have been taken to settle the native claims.

Norfolk island, about a fortnight's sail from Sydney, being remote from all other inhabited lands, is now a penal settlement for the worst description of prisoners. Most of the prisoners there have been transported from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land for crimes committed in those colonies after the parties had been transported from Great Britain. Thus has one of the most beautiful islands

in the world been converted, merely from its peculiar situation, into a huge prison.

Having given this brief sketch of the whole of the British settlement in these seas, I will merely state, that in points of the greatest importance in her climate and natural advantages, Australia Felix is inferior to none of these colonies, and now that this province has been and is making such rapid strides against every disadvantage which besets its progress, is it too much to hope that she may very shortly be erected into a separate and independent colony.

To shew that this desire of her inhabitants is founded on justice, it is only necessary to trace to its right cause the sad state of affairs in 1842—43, and to do this we must look back to the early history of this ill-used settlement.

I have before spoken of the purchase of a large extent of land from the Aborigines by Mr. Batman, and the association with which he was connected. The British government refused to ratify this treaty, assigning several valid reasons for this measure, and Sir Richard Bourke then issued a proclamation declaring the treaty void, and the parties trespassers. After this proceeding the Port Philip settlement could be considered in no other light than as one composed of squatters. It continued to increase rapidly notwithstanding, so much so that the government before a year had elapsed found it necessary to instruct Sir R. Bourke to appoint magistrates and other officers to manage its affairs, and to put the lands up for sale at the same price and on the same conditions as in other parts of New South Wales.

And now commenced that odious system of land jobbing, which for a season threatened to put an end to all legitimate commerce, and thus to ruin this fair and fertile land. At

the first government sale of crown lands in the colony, the half acre town allotments of Melbourne were put up at £5 each, the surveyor thinking £7 too much to ask for them. A few months elapsed, and they were again sold to speculators at from £25 to £100 each. In a short time these same allotments were sold at from £700 to £1,000 each; and this ridiculous price was given for land which had never been improved; the very trees were still on it as they had been when it was only worth £5. If at this time the Sydney government had put a large quantity of land into the market, it is more than probable that the mania for land speculation would have ceased, but this they did not do. The coffers of that colony were low, and instead of bringing land down to its real value it was actually increased by raising the price of government land in the town to £1,000 an allotment. It should be borne in mind that all money derived from the sale of crown lands in this province are sent to the Sydney treasury—and that parties buying from government are obliged to pay down a handsome per centage at the time of sale, and the whole sum must be paid at the expiration of a month from the time of making the purchase or the transaction is null and void.

I find the following in the Port Philip Gazette, of October, 1838. In its opening address to the public, it observes "Sir George Gipps in laying the estimates for 1839 before the legislative council, stated that the land revenue during the first six months of this year (1838,) amounted to only £31,662 10*s.* 9*d.* and estimating the revenue for the last six months at the same rate, we shall have only the sum of £63,325 1*s.* 6*d.* to meet the expenditure in emigration in the year 1838. Now from this it appears, that the total amount of the land revenue realized during the six months of the year, from the entire territory of New South Wales,

was £31,662 10*s.* 9*d.* whereas the Melbourne district alone realized in two days, the 12th and 13th September, the sum of £35,359 3*s.* 0*d.* being positively £3,696 12*s.* 3*d.* more than the probable revenue estimated by Sir George Gipps in his financial minute from the land sales of the entire territory of N.S.W. for the last six months of the year."

Now all this amount of hard cash was drained from the infant settlement, not yet three years in existence, and applied chiefly for Sydney purposes, from which the Port Philipians could derive no benefit whatever. Would it have been a matter to wonder at, if this place had been deserted, or if Australia Felix had returned to that barbarism from which it had so recently emerged?

Such mad speculation brought eventually its own punishment and cure; land is now nearer its true value than it has hitherto been. Allotments may now be purchased in the town of Melbourne, for one half less than they could be when the town was little more than existing on paper.

The price of government land outside the town boundaries, is £1 per acre, but a great deal of the land worth occupying near towns is already purchased. The following is a copy of the prices of government lands at the undermentioned colonies, from No. 1 of the colonization circular, issued by her Majesty's colonial land, and Emigration Commissioners.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*	
	Per acre.			
Cape of Good Hope	0	2	0	currency.
Ceylon	0	5	0	...
Falkland Islands	0	8	0	...
Canada (West)	0	8	0	...
Canada (East).....	4*s.* & 6*s.*			...
New Brunswick.....	0	3	0	...
Nova Scotia	0	3	0	...
Australian Colonies	1	0	0	sterling.

The lowest upset price is £1 per acre in the Australian colonies, being more than double and treble the sum demanded for lands within a month's sail of England. Surely, if Canadian lands within 5000 miles of Britain are only worth 4*s.* 6*s.* and 8*s.*, Australian waste lands, it stands with reason, situated 16,000 miles away, cannot be worth £1 per acre.

As regards the capabilities of the land of Australia Felix and its natural fertility, I cannot do better than quote from the journal of its enterprising discoverer, Major Mitchell. Whilst passing over some of the back country of Australia Felix, Major M—— says, "every day we passed over land, which for natural fertility and beauty, could scarcely be surpassed; over streams of unfailing abundance, and plains covered with the richest pasturage; stately trees and majestic mountains adorned the ever-varying scenery of this region, the most austral of all Australia and the best." And again, he says, "the splendid and extensive scene was different from any thing I had ever before witnessed either in New South Wales or elsewhere, a land so inviting, and still without inhabitants. As I stood, the first intruder on the sublime solitudes of these verdant plains, as yet untouched by flocks and herds, I felt conscious of being the harbinger of mighty changes there, for our steps would soon be followed by the men and the animals, for which it seemed to have been prepared."

Again, "as we proceeded, we found the country had all the appearance of a well kept park, and the rich black earth produced grass in greater luxuriance than I had ever before seen in Australia." "We had at length, he proceeds, discovered a country ready for the immediate reception of civilized man, and fit to become eventually one of the great nations of the earth. Unencumbered with too much

wood, yet possessing enough for all purposes, with an exuberant soil, under a temperate climate, bounded by the sea coast and mighty rivers, and watered abundantly by streams from lofty mountains, this highly interesting region lay before me with all its features, new and untouched as they fell from the hands of the Creator." Much of the country seen by Major Mitchell, and mentioned with so much delight, is now occupied by the flocks and herds of the settlers. Stations have been formed where smiling plenty and a hearty welcome greets the way-worn traveller. The whole face of nature is undergoing a steady, but a sure change, and judging from its progress and its natural advantages, there is little doubt but that the few enterprising Britons who first settled on its shores, are really the germ from which, in the lapse of years, a wealthy and powerful people will arise.

The whole of the back country of Australia is denominated the bush. Beautiful plains with nothing on them but a luxuriant herbage, gentle rises with scarcely a tree, and all that park-like country met with in Australia Felix in such perfection is included under the general designation of the bush and its white inhabitants as bushmen.

The greater part of the country has that happy medium of being just enough wooded without inconveniencing the settler, whilst there is no lack of good timber for every purpose he may require. It has been my lot to travel for many days through a country, the only hinderances being an occasional scrub, a belt of thickly wooded forest, a large lagoon, or a deep flowing river where the ground was spread with an eternal verdure, contrasting well with the dark and scmbre foliage of the forest trees. Many parts of the bush where cattle are not very numerous, and where

consequently no check is put on vegetation, produce a large mass of vegetable matter which drying up with the heat of the summer, awaits only the first spark of fire to ignite and sweep every thing before it.

These bush fires in the hot season are very numerous, large tracts of country are rendered for the time bare and desolate, the whole land is as it were in mourning; but the first rain soon dispels its ravages, and in a few days its ashes nourish the growth of another crop of grass and and herbage to be in the end attended by a similar result. The trees of the plains all suffer more or less from these visitations, but in the mountains and ranges where the fire seldom penetrates the trees grow to a most amazing size. I have seen stringy bark trees and white gum frequently from one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet in height. Notwithstanding the number, and fierceness of these fires, I never heard during my residence in the country of a single well authenticated instance of any human being having suffered from them in life or limb. Far different is it with the crops and huts of the settlers if proper precaution is not taken by ploughing up a few feet of land all around the huts and paddocks. This effectually prevents the ravages of the fire, but is often deferred until too late. Unless some means are adopted before the fire make its appearance, the probability is, that "at one fell swoop" the unfortunate settler will find himself without a home and with only a few chard posts to remind him where once stood his perhaps flourishing station. His crops burned, his cattle spread over the country, it is likely he will discover the truth of the old adage "misfortunes seldom come singly." Many have returned in disgust from their "adopted country" from events of this description taking place on their first entry on colonial life. The flooding of a river, a

very common occurrence during the winter months, if the country around has not been properly examined is often found as destructive to the hopes and crops of the settler as a bush fire when it reaches a station, when no preparations have been made to restrain its fury.

The soil throughout the province is on the whole very rich, and is capable of producing in conjunction with the fine salubrious climate all the necessaries and most of the luxuries of life. The richest land, and that which would produce the most abundant crops, exists in the tiers and mountain ranges, but cultivation here is out of the question in the present state of the labor market. In fact, it is a question with settlers whether an agricultural farm would prove a remunerating concern at a further distance from a market than thirty miles by land carriage. When water presents facilities for transporting produce, it would of course, make a material difference in favor of the agriculturist. Corn of every description is grown and produces abundantly, yielding an average of forty bushels to the acre, from soil which has received no stimulants, and on which a very little labor has been bestowed. There are many gardens now in a state of great perfection near Melbourne. English fruits have been introduced and bear well, and in a short period, although there are some, the climate does not appear to agree with. Strawberries, gooseberries, and raspberries, never arrive at the great perfection they do in England, but almost all the other kinds of British fruits thrive well. Melons are grown in the open air, and grapes are produced abundantly, indeed so much so as to leave little doubt that the colonists will in a few years make their own wine. Tobacco is cultivated by the sheep farmer for the purpose of dressing his flocks for the scab, a disease which with proper care will be eventually eradicated from

the country. Smokers find they cannot enjoy colonial tobacco on account of its not being properly prepared, consequently a great proportion of the weed which is smoked is imported from America and a heavy duty levied on it.

All the culinary vegetables and herbs which are found in England, are produced with scarcely an intermission the whole year round. Potatoes are very prolific and good, frequently there are twelve tons to the acre. In the year 1843, I saw several of this useful vegetable weighing from three pounds eight ounces to four pounds each, grown on the station of Mr. C. Manton, in Westernport.

Oats are grown for the consumption of cattle in towns, and are usually brought to market in a green state.

The natural productions of the country fit for food are scanty and poor; man must "earn his bread by the sweat of his brow," or starve. But there is no country where a greater return is made to the industrious emigrant, than in this.

Amongst the few native fruits, may be enumerated the wild raspberry, it is of good flavour, and is found by the banks of rivers in great luxuriance. The wild cherry, *(exocarpus,)* a small fruit, with the stone growing on the outside, something like the yew-berry. The wild currant, *(leucopogon Richei,)* a small bushy shrub, with fruit about the size of the English description, but of a more acid flavor. The fruit of a creeping plant, called in this country, pig face, *(mysenbry authemum aquilaterale,)* is pleasant to the taste, the juicy leaves make excellent pickles, and are often used for that purpose in the bush. These leaves are also eaten by the natives for food when pressed by hunger, and are found to be of a purgative quality. The root of a herb, called by the natives, mernong,

is collected and eaten by them with great avidity; it bears a yellow flower something like the dandelion, its root is similar to a parsnip in taste, but it is not generally larger than a small onion. There are also several other roots used by these people, but as they are of small size and of inferior flavor, it would answer no good purpose to mention them more particularly.

The geological peculiarities of the province are as follows—"iron stone abounds in every part of the district, and is usually seen in the shape of pebbles, strewed on flat areas of ground. Surveyor Haddle, in his dispatches to the colonial government, states that seventy-five per cent. of this stone consisted of iron ore, and so powerful was its effect upon the instruments of the surveyors as to render it necessary to sell the sections of land at a certain number of acres, more or less, it having been found impossible in some situations to obtain correct measurements."

Quarries of hard sandstone and granite, well calculated for building purposes, are frequent near Melbourne, and are now worked to some extent.

Limestone, of good quality, is found and burned at Point Nepean, one of the heads of Port Philip, and is sent by small craft to Melbourne and the other towns on the coasts of the bay. In the early days of this settlement, lime was manufactured from oyster and cockle shells, large beds of which are still remaining in many of the creeks and bays of Port Philip.

There is a peculiar black sand existing on several parts of this bay, it is composed of iron and silex.

Coal, of good quality, exists in Westernport, but from its peculiar situation it is as yet almost useless to the colonists.

Indications of coal were also noticed on the Merri Creek,

within six miles of Melbourne, on the farm of H. G. Ashhurst, Esq., an enterprising merchant, who sunk three hundred feet, and several hundred pounds, but was obliged to desist in consequence of the enormous wages demanded by the men he had employed. Some small particles of coal were sent up in the buckets at different times, but this I imagine was merely a ruse of the artful miners to induce Mr. H. to still keep them at work; iron pyrites were very plentiful during the sinking. All the coal yet discovered is anthracite. Dr. Thompson, a gentleman of Geelong, says, "the rocks on the sea coast near Cape Otway, are of a sandstone formation, and the cliffs are in some places one hundred feet perpendicular, the only peculiarity being an immense number of granite pebbles scattered throughout the sandstone like plumbs in a pudding, thus forming a subject for the geologist to speculate on. Coal, with its characteristic vegetation, abounded in the cliffs; the magnetic bearings of the coal were east and west, a fine transverse vein running through them." It appears also from many observations made by others, that there is no lack of this useful mineral, and when it is considered that it is found in the proximity of iron ore, it leads to the very interesting train of reflection, that the means lie within the grasp of the colonists of becoming manufacturers.

CHAPTER II.

THE climate of Australia Felix is generally of the most delightful and healthy description, being much cooler than New South Wales, and not so chill and humid as Van Diemen's Land.

> "The four seasons woven into one—
> And that one season a perpetual spring,
> Gives life and cheerfulness to all around."

The greatest inconvenience the new comer feels, is the dreadful hot winds which blow for short periods through the three summer months; with the exception of those periods when this wind prevails, no finer climate can be imagined than that of this province. The hot winds are always from the northward.

Martin, when writing of the heat in New South Wales, observes, "the rise of the mercury in the thermometer does not indicate the effect of the weather on the animal frame; the humidity of the atmosphere is of far more importance in this respect, for I have felt a much greater degree of oppression in Calcutta with the thermometer at 80° and the atmosphere surcharged with moisture than in New South Wales when the mercury was at 125° and the air of a parching dryness. Indeed, in the latter country, I have

ridden fifty miles a day with but slight fatigue, while under the temperature of Bengal, I found the slightest motion exhausting." These observations are equally true as to the heat of Australia Felix; I have walked thirty miles during the heat of a summer's day with the thermometer at 100° without experiencing any very great inconvenience. The highest I ever noticed the thermometer in Melbourne was 100° in the shade, although I believe it has been occasionally more. During the winter months it is sometimes in the mornings as low as 21°, and slight frosts occur, but they disappear before ten o'clock, and the remainder of the day is generally warm and pleasant. The frosts are not of sufficient consequence to retard vegetation, for the country looks more beautiful during the winter than at any other period of the year, and although it is a wet and disagreeable season to residents in town, where the streets are not in the best condition, the bushman enjoys it as the most healthy and strengthening period of the year. The spring is subject to sudden variations, and is generally speaking very wet.

The summer heat is very oppressive at times, but an occasional thunder-storm clears the atmosphere and invigorates vegetation. The summer months are from the first of November to the first of March. The autumn months, February, March, April, and May, are of the blandest and most beautiful weather—pleasant breezes, a clear blue sky, and a pure atmosphere, fully compensate for all the inconveniences felt during the preceding warm weather. The sky is seldom clouded, and day after day for weeks together, the sun looks down in unveiled beauty.

The seasons here are opposite to those of England—January is the middle of summer, and July of winter. The spring months are September, October, and November;

the summer, December, January, and February; autumn, March, April, and May; winter, June, July, and August. The rainy months are considered to be March, April, and August. A sea breeze from the southward generally sets in in the afternoon during the summer months; still I have known in one instance only, a hot wind last three days and nights, when it was cleared off by a tremendous thunder-storm.

No drought has yet visited Australia Felix—this single circumstance is sufficient to raise it far above any other part of New South Wales, where this affliction occurs very often, and proves most destructive to the stock and crops of the settlers.

One of the greatest proofs which can be adduced of the healthiness of this climate, is the fact of the few diseases prevalent amongst the inhabitants, and that most of these are the result of moral causes. The general use of ardent spirits here, as well as in all our Australian colonies, is found to produce the most ruinous effects. I cannot too strongly urge the subject of temperance upon the mind of the intending emigrant. A man who once gives way to his passion for drink, seldom recovers himself, and the heat of the climate combined with this cause, hurries him to a premature grave.

Fevers, frequently the effects of intemperance, are during the hot season very prevalent in Melbourne. Colds and rheumatism, sometimes appear during the wet season among dwellers in town, but the bushman often escapes these troubles, although more exposed to the elements. I never heard of a case of small pox during the time I was in Melbourne, but the way many of the natives are disfigured by it, proclaim that this disease must have made fearful ravages amongst them at some former time.

Ophthelmia, and other diseases of the eyes, are not frequently met with in this province.

Dysentery is a complaint very prevalent during the summer months, at times carrying off great numbers of young children, and often proving fatal to adults. Since a dam has been completed across the river Yarra, preventing the salt water from mixing with that part of the stream from which the inhabitants of Melbourne are supplied with water, this disease has not committed such ravages as formerly. A very fruitful source of sickness in this town consisted in the miserably dirty and neglected state of the streets, but since the improvements which have been made by the corporation, the appearance of the town, and health of the inhabitants, are improved to a great degree. There is still much remaining to be done; within a short distance of the town boundaries many hundreds of sheep and cattle are daily slaughtered for the melting-down establishment, and after the fat and tallow is extracted, the remaining quantity of animal matter is deposited in a place so near that when the wind happens to be in a certain quarter, the stench is perceptable in the town. For upwards of a mile down the right bank of the Yarra, these melting-houses are built, and their removal would prove ruinous to many of the owners; however this should not prevent the authorities from abating the nuisance, and adding considerably to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of Melbourne.

Illness is almost unknown in the bush; a life there is far preferable to living in the towns. When sickness does occur in any of the well-settled districts, there is generally to be found a medical man, a great many of whom occupy stations, within a reasonable distance, who always consider themselves bound to give advice without making any

charge. I have the pleasure of knowing a medical gentleman who resides in Westernport, Dr. Jamieson, who not content with this proof of good feeling towards his fellow men, actually keeps a large stock of medicines at his station, and who supplies gratis, those who otherwise would have to travel a distance of sixty miles to procure them. The bush, notwithstanding the rough life led in it, is the stronghold of hospitality and good feeling—and the traveller, even if he should stumble on a stranger's station, is sure of finding there a welcome, and assistance should such be required.

CHAPTER III.

THE matter which will be of the greatest interest to the reader after the subject treated of in the previous chapter, will be an account of the several towns and settlements, and of the peculiar natural features appertaining to this province; a survey of its rivers and lakes will convince the general reader that Australia Felix is the best watered district in New South Wales. The province has been subdivided into four districts, Westernport, Goulburn, Mount Macedon, and Geelong; this division of the country applies more particularly to the protectorate department over the aborigines, each district having an assistant protector. Another municipal division of the country is into counties, three in number, surveyed and apportioned by government, and severally named Bourke, Grant, and Normanby. These are again subdivided into parishes. The several divisions of the country are so vaguely defined as to render accuracy in detail virtually impossible. I will now endeavour to enumerate and describe those towns which actually are existing, and make no mention of those townships as yet only in a wild state, and presenting no reality but to the minds of wild speculators or unprincipled men.

Having in the previous chapter endeavoured to shew the present state of Melbourne, I will contrast it by an account

with which it was in 1838, only eight years since, written by George Arden, Esq., late the able editor of a Melbourne newspaper, called the Port Philip Gazette, and author of a pamphlet published at his office, entitled, "Latest Information with regard to Australia Felix." He proceeds to say, "that when he first saw this settlement, in January, 1838, a few months after its authorised establishment, it presented more the appearance of the villages he had seen in the interior of India, a neuclus of huts embowered in the forest foliage, and peering at itself in the river stream that laved the thresholds of its tenements, than any collection of buildings formed by European hands. It was at that time possessed of two wooden houses, serving the purposes of hotels or inns to the settlers who frequented the little town, upon the occasion of their bringing their wool produce to the port, or new arrivals, before they committed themselves to the trials and privations of the bush. A small square wooden building, with an old ship's bell suspended from a most defamatory looking gallows like structure, fulfilling the duty of church or chapel to the various religious denominations, whence, however, the solemn voice of prayer and praise sounding over the yet wild country had an effect the most interesting and impressive. The ground which had been discovered on the river side, of a nature fitted to the manufacture of bricks, had been applied in one or two instances with full success; the earth also, it was found in many parts, appeared capable of yielding much fine and rough stone, useful to the mason and the builder. The communication with Van Diemen's Land had then become constant; with Sydney, however, it still remained unfrequent; this may be attributed as much to the greater quota of the residents having transmigrated from the sister island, as to the relative proximity of the former with that

of Melbourne. Of fresh meat, mutton was still scarce, and beef seldom or ever seen; the flesh of the kangaroo, with all the natural variety of wild fowl, was in abundant use. Two or three shops forming general emporiums for every description of immediately useful articles, although exceedingly inferior, opened their stores to the public, while a branch establishment of a Van Diemen's Land Bank flourished on its monetary exchanges, discounts, and circulation. A manuscript newspaper, conducted by one of the early colonists, enlightens the inhabitants as to their rights and necessities."

Seven years exertion and unwearied perseverance has raised this town to be the second in importance in New South Wales. A fine wharf, of wood, has been built, and a spacious custom house, several docks have been constructed, substantial brick and stone edifices have taken the place of mud huts, and every thing indicates industry and prosperity; commodious inns and hotels are now numerous; the several denominations of Christians have their different churches and chapels; quarries of excellent building stone are worked to advantage within a mile of Melbourne; vessels are daily entering and clearing out for the different ports of Van Diemen's Land and the other colonies; a mail now runs to Sydney and back once a week; many thousands of sheep and cattle are slaughtered for their tallow and hides, and the best meat can be obtained for one penny per pound, and the flesh of the kangaroo is now eaten only by new comers from mere curiosity, and is sixpence per pound. Articles of merchandize can be purchased good, and at reasonable prices, at the many fine shops and stores which now adorn the town. Three banks are in a very flourishing state. The Union Bank of Australia has a branch here under a

managing director, whose returns of interest to the general stock have been greater than that of any other branch of the same establishment. The bank of Australia has also a branch at Melbourne, to which the same remark applies. A Savings' Bank has been established, and is found to act beneficially for all parties concerned. There are now newspapers published daily. The Port Philip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser, edited by William Kerr, Esq., was the first newspaper published in Melbourne, and as such, and for the talent displayed in it, deserves to be the first mentioned. The Port Philip Gazette during its infancy was the favourite and leading newspaper of the province. It was originally edited by George Arden, Esq., but this onerous duty is now performed by a gentleman named McComby.

The Port Philip Herald, established in 1840, displays great talent in its management, and is ably conducted by George Cavenagh, Esq., a gentleman long conversant with colonial affairs.

The Port Philip Gazeteer, although last mentioned, is not by any means the least amongst these triumphs of the colonial press. It is published by Thos. Strode, Esq., and edited by George Boursiquot, Esq.

These papers, and several smaller publications, compose the local newspaper press of Melbourne. They are each published three days in the week, so that between them there is little fear of any news being lost amongst a population of twelve thousand persons.

The rapid rise of this town must excite surprise when it is considered that every impediment appeared to be placed in the way of its progress. The provincial lands, which under the fostering government of Sir Richard Bourke, had been disposed of at Melbourne, were suddenly, and without

reason, transferred to Sydney. Arden, says, "the voluntary promises made by his former excellency, referring to Sir R. Bourke to secure the introduction of free emigrants in lieu of that convict labor, which had by the mutual desire of the home and colonial legislatures been withheld from the Port Philipians were disregarded by the present governor; nor was it until the inhabitants had themselves petitioned for a proportion of free labor equivalent to the funds raised in the district, that one vessel, thirteen months subsequently, conveyed to Melbourne a cargo of government emigrants! The port of Port Philip, which since the establishment of a custom house, had enjoyed the privileges of a free warehousing port, was capriciously placed without the pale of an enactment so beneficial to its mercantile prosperity, and was only sullenly restored to its former position upon a very strong remonstrance having been presented from the merchants, graziers, and land-owners of the district. These injudicious regulations, together with the extremely penurious manner in which the public expenditure was managed by his excellency, Sir George Gipps, although it had been expressly provided by the secretary of state, that the wants of this dependency should be freely supplied from its productive land fund, brought on consequences which might but for the vigilance of influential parties at home have left Australia Felix at this moment wasting its superlative advantages in unsuccessful efforts to shake off the incumbrancy of a bad government. What indeed could be expected from private enterprise more than had been accomplished? The town of Melbourne had been built and populated by the experienced capitalists of the neighbouring colonies, the commerce and trade were confined to colonial voyages and inter-colonial transactions, all the spare population of the old districts had been

drained off to supply the younger settlement, and now without convict labor, without free labor in return for their land fund, without adequate civil protection, without proper facilities for purchasing land, or having purchased to cultivate it, and without any public expenditure to support and reciprocate their efforts; what indeed could be expected from private enterprize more than had been accomplished?"

The town occupies about three miles of the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, by a breadth of one mile, and contains, including its suburbs, upwards of two thousand dwellings with a population of about twelve thousand. The buildings are more concentrated than is usually found in modern colonial towns. It is well supplied with water from the river Yarra, which continues fresh and wholesome the year round, although several wells have been dug in the town of Melbourne, none of the water obtained is as good or wholesome for man as the Yarra water. The town is abounding with every necessary, and most of the luxuries of life; fruit in its season is both plentiful and cheap; rents are reasonable now although in 1840—41, two rooms built of wood, and poorly finished, could not be had under £2 per week. At present there are few places where those with limited incomes could live as cheaply as in Melbourne.

Members of the different professions are numerous, and there is no lack of mercantile houses, agents, brokers, and traders of all kinds and descriptions from the licensed pedlar who visits his "country friends," as he imagines his wares may be required to the aristocratic merchant, who supplies the back settlers with stores and merchandize sufficient to satisfy their wants for a twelve month at a time.

In Arden's pamphlet, published in 1840, he calculates

the total value of property in Melbourne to be one million, three hundred and ninety-two thousand pounds sterling; since that period it has nearly doubled, and in lieu of her imports far exceeding in value her exports, the contrary is now the case. Williamstown, the settlement on the shores of Hobson's Bay, near the mouth of the Yarra, was originally considered the best site for the first settlement, but from being poorly supplied with fresh water, the people were induced to proceed further up the Yarra to the present town of Melbourne. Hobson's Bay presents a fine anchorage, and is a safe harbour; vessels of 1,300 tons lie there during the most severe weather in perfect security. This town after rising very speedily for a year or two has remained ever since without making much addition to its size or importance. It boasts of several large hotels, to which the masters and crews of the merchantmen are the principal support. There are several substantial stone and wooden stores, and many private residences and shops. It contains now about one hundred and eighty buildings. A lighthouse has been erected at Gillibrand's Point, a short distance south of the town, for the direction of vessels navigating the bay at night. A flag staff is also very useful in telegraphing to Melbourne the departures and arrivals of ships. The officers of the pilot's department, the harbour master, and the boarding and custom-house officers are stationed at this town. A bench of magistrates hold a court there daily.

The river Yarra emptying itself into Hobson's Bay, is a fine stream, and is of sufficient depth to allow vessels of from 150 to 200 tons to proceed to the wharf at Melbourne, a distance of eight miles. Its average width is about thirty yards, and its average depth four fathoms. By the removal of a sand bank, which stretches nearly across its mouth,

vessels of 400 tons could proceed direct to Melbourne. The tide in this river rises and falls six feet at its mouth. It is supposed to take its rise in the mountains to the northward and eastward of Westernport. Several expeditions have been sent out to discover its rise, but have always returned unsuccessful.

About two miles from its confluence with the sea, the Yarra receives a tributary from the northward, commonly called, now the salt water river; but in the early accounts of Port Philip, called by its native name Arudell. This river from its appropriateness for navigation for some miles, will prove very beneficial to those settlers who will eventually cultivate its fertile banks in the conveyance of their produce to market. About seven miles from its confluence with the Yarra, it rather suddenly dwindles away into a chain of ponds and water-holes. When the Yarra was first explored, great quantities of timber in its bed rendered the navigation difficult and annoying, but this is all cleared away, and also a great quantity of the tea tree *(leptospermum,)* scrubs which formerly lined both banks of the Yarra for a considerable distance. Several vessels have been built on the banks of this pretty river; one called the "Teazer," of about 70 tons, was launched shortly before the writer left; she was built of red gum, a wood which has of late years been exported to England in great quantities; it has all the properties of mahogany.

The town and harbour of Geelong are situated in the west arm of the great bay of Port Philip. This place early rose in importance in consequence of the great deal of available land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town and port; this portion of Australia Felix has great capabilities for agriculturists.

In the town of Geelong there are several good inns, a

church, and chapels, a police office, and watch-house, and many well constructed stores, and private dwellings. Although this town has not improved so rapidly as Melbourne, yet from its position and healthy situation, and the splendid country by which it is surrounded, there can be little doubt but that one day it will rival the elder town. The harbour, if once cleared of the narrow bar at its innermost edge, will equal Hobson's Bay. A great number of sheep and cattle are shipped from this port yearly for Van Diemen's Land; in fact the meat market of this island is principally supplied by the graziers of Australia Felix. A great proportion of the wool formerly shipped from Hobson's Bay, is now sent direct from this harbour to the great pecuniary advantage of the shipper. Captains of vessels complain of the great injustice of the authorities in obliging them to proceed to Melbourne, a distance of forty miles, for the purpose of clearing their vessels out; why could it not be as satisfactorily done at Geelong? Amongst the settlements on the shore of Port Philip, the pleasantly situated towns of Brighton and St. Kilda on the land bordering on the beach about five miles from Melbourne, are deserving some notice. Both these towns are of recent date; Brighton the first formed was the special survey of Henry Dendy, Esq., and was laid out and surveyed as the site for a town in 1841, by H. B. Foot, Esq. Much of the land fronting the sea was purchased by merchants and wealthy men, who have erected many beautiful and commodious villa residences, forming a pleasant retreat for themselves and families after the fatigues of business and the dust of Melbourne. The houses in this town are more concentrated than in St. Kilda, and from there being several stores and small shops, a short distance from the

sea shore, the place has a business-like aspect, which, from its proximity to Melbourne, and consequent dearth of shops, is not discoverable in St. Kilda. These towns may be considered the watering places of the colonists, and both present a fine beach for that necessary recreation in all warm climates, sea bathing. Sharks, those great enemies to a comfortable bath, are sometimes caught of rather a formidable size off the shore, but scarcely ever venture into the shallows near Brighton. The natives may often be observed amusing themselves by spearing the small descriptions of this voracious fish, in water about four feet deep, near the shore; this is a favourite fishing place of these interesting people. On a summer's night, when there is no moon, and but little breeze, I have seen the shore for some distance illuminated by their torches, making a very striking and withal savage scene. From the shallowness of the water no canoes are requisite, and the native stripped of his opossum cloak, or blanket, and having ignited a flambeau made out of the twigs of the she oak, *(casuarinas)* a strong light is thrown for some distance around him which attracts all the fish, and the poor native, armed only with his fishing spear, generally returns on shore with a good supply of food for the ensuing day.

As an instance of the enterprising spirit and industry of the colonists, by which nature is reclaimed and towns formed in short periods, I will mention a trifling incident which occurred to me. Having been absent in the bush for eight months, I wished to pay some friends at Brighton a visit, and was taking the shortest way across the country without any guide, except the stars, and when about as I imagined, three miles from the town, and expecting nothing but a wilderness, I suddenly came on several well-built

brick houses, and I was surprised to find myself in the midst of substantial villa residences.

The settlement of Portland, at Portland bay, was originally a whaling station. From about the period of 1833 this roadstead was visited by whalers from Van Diemen's Land for the sale of its fisheries. It was no uncommon occurrence for the fleet of vessels visiting this part of the coast, to take from fifteen hundred to two thousand tons, in the course of a single season. The Messrs. Henty of Van Diemen's Land, were the first to form a permanent settlement on shore, and to commence cultivation to some extent in order to supply the numerous persons employed in the fishery. Their farming operations were very fortunate, and in the course of a few seasons, stock was imported from Launceston; and thus by the industry of a few individuals this prosperous and fertile settlement was formed. Messrs. Henty's station was visited by Major Mitchell on his return from the Glenelg, the boundary of Australia Felix, in the year 1836. A prosperous town is now to be seen usurping the site of mud-huts and stockyards. Two newspapers are published in Portland weekly.

The bay is an open roadstead, and is situated at the western end of a long indentation of the coast, beginning at Cape Sir William Grant, and running eastward thirty miles.

The anchorage, at present used, is not considered good, but it is pretty well protected from all winds except the E.S.E. Several vessels have been wrecked in this bay.

Port Fairy, where there is also a settlement, is a small and by no means secure harbour, in 142° east longitude, and is chiefly valued as a whaling station.

The settlements in Port Albert and in Gipp's Land,

formed within the last few years, are under the jurisdiction of his honor the Lieut. Governor of Port Philip, J. C. La Trobe, Esq. Corner Inlet and Port Albert are at the northern extremity of Wilson's promontory, and were first noticed on the occasion of a steamer, called the Clomnel, being lost on a sand bank near the entrance of Port Albert. The crew and passengers of this vessel finding after she had struck that all their efforts to get her off again were unavailing, with much difficulty succeeded in reaching in their boats, a low woody tract of land which they at the time imagined formed one of the heads of Corner Inlet. Having with parts of the wreck which floated ashore, and with the natural productions of this spot, built shelters from the wind and rain; a boat and several of the wrecked people were dispatched to Melbourne, a distance of two hundred miles, for the purpose of sending down supplies, and a vessel to take the unfortunate crew and passengers from the desolate spot they were on. Fortunately this boat reached Melbourne in safety, but during their absence some of the more adventurous amongst the wrecked people determined to explore the sheet of water which spread out before them. After some time they discovered they had first landed on an island, since called Snake Island, and that they could proceed into Corner Inlet by water, by keeping well off its inner shore; having satisfied themselves on this point they followed another channel, and discovered a large extent of water, since called Port Albert; having landed, and proceeded about a mile inland to a small hillock, they erected a long pole on its most conspicuous point, and returned to their companions in misfortune who were anxiously expecting them.

Immediately on the arrival of the party who had been dispatched to Melbourne, means were taken and the whole

of these people were rescued from the unpleasant situation they were in, and carrying back with them accounts of their minor discoveries, induced several private individuals to take a small craft and proceed to the scene of the late disaster. A cutter of about eleven tons was chosen as the most appropriate, as it was then doubted whether vessels of a larger burden could proceed up these channels on account of the great numbers of sand banks that had been observed. Other vessels were also sent down to save as much as was practicable of the wreck. The adventurers in the cutter proceeded up the bay, and discovered an island covered with scrub and with a poor soil, which they named Sunday Island; and still keeping a northerly course in water of three and four fathoms, reached a spot now occupied by the little town of New Leith, also known as the Stockyard; sailing from this spot they discovered the Tara rivulet, on the banks of which stream a special survey of five thousand one hundred and twenty acres was taken by a Mr. Reeves, who laid out a town which is now in a flourishing state. The farms which have been established here, are let at the moderate rent of one bushel of wheat per acre yearly; but then the emigrant must bear in mind the land had all to be cleared and fenced before any return from it could possibly be made. The land near this settlement is lightly timbered with blackwood, hickory and wattle, *(acacia affinis,)* and is well supplied with natural grass and herbage. The town of Taraville consists of a good inn, built of brick and well finished, together with about fifty other buildings principally of brick. Wells have been sunk on different parts of this locality, and good water is obtained at an average depth of eighteen feet. This place though further removed than the other settlements from the navigable waters of Port

Albert, has notwithstanding made the most rapid advancement.

New Leith, or the Stockyard, is situated on a low and scrubby neck of land, nearly opposite the entrance of the Tarra creek, and all the stock being shipped for Van Diemen's Land from this part, the principal share of the Gipp's Land business is transacted here. There is safe anchorage close by the town for vessels of 300 tons burthen. It carries on a considerable shipping trade, now more than 3000 tons annually, and the character of the port may be inferred from the fact that loss as yet has never been sustained in it. A custom-house officer and boat's crew are stationed here; a good inn has been constructed, and is found of great benefit to the shippers of cattle, who find every accomodation a first-rate country inn in England could afford. The scrub in December, 1844, was gradually disappearing, and neat cottages were to be seen from amongst the remaining picturesque masses of tea tree, *(leptospermum.)*

The greatest drawback to Leith is the scarcity of good water, which is brought in drays from the old port. This was the original shipping place for stock, but Leith is now preferred in consequence of the greater facility for getting cattle on board ship, they not having to swim above half the distance at the new settlement. Several wells from which a good and plentiful supply of water is obtained, exist at the old port, situated from Leith about two miles, and from which the inhabitants of the new town are supplied.

A few of the huts were still standing during a visit I paid the deserted town in 1844, although in a very dilapidated state. Heaps of broken bottles in one spot indicated where once stood a public-house, and at the same time were a

sufficient proof that not many of the inhabitants could have embraced the principles of the Teetotal Society. The land around this place was as bad as the portion surrounding the new town of Leith, being covered with a small species of *eucalyptus,* a few stunted honeysuckles, *(banksia),* and great quantities of the grass-tree, *(zanthorrhœa australis.)* The look-out station here was of a rather peculiar description, being nothing more than a huge honeysuckle tree, with steps cut in it to enable the curious visitor by mounting in its branches to discover if there were any vessels in sight. This has been improved on at the new post where there is a flag-staff erected.

The town of Victoria, adjoining the government township of Alberton, on which by the bye, there is not a single building, consists of two stores and about thirty other buildings, most of them constructed of wood. It is situated near the Albert river, a small stream near the town, but improving in width and depth as it approaches the bay. Every improvement here seems to be made by private enterprise. Alberton, formed under the auspices of the government, remains in precisely the same position as before any Europeans had visited it, whilst the other towns, all the result of private speculation, are daily improving and preparing the way for an extensive commerce.

The land contiguous to Victoria, is rich and thinly wooded, and produces good crops when brought under cultivation. There is also an abundant supply of natural grass for cattle.

Taken as a whole, Gipp's Land, the district in which these embryo towns are situated, may be considered as one of the most rising parts of New South Wales. It is bounded on the north by the ranges extending from the back of Wilson's promontory towards Lake Omio, on

the north-east by the Tambo, and on the south-east by the Ninety Mile Beach: Wilson's promontory, with the ports of Port Albert and Corner Inlet, being at the south west, and the entrance to Lake Victoria at the north-east extremity of the coast line. This fine tract of country, perhaps the finest of all Australia Felix, was the discovery of Count Strelenski, a Polish traveller, who, "led by a spirit of discovery, surveyed the upper portions of the River Hume, or Murray, tracing it to its source in Lake Omio, in the heart of the Australian Alps, and following the course of the mountain range ascended its highest summit." "The noble traveller," says Arden, "hallowed this eminence by conferring on it the name of his country's patriot Koskiusko." From this point the noble traveller discovered a country of many hundreds of square miles stretching away to the sea coast, and presenting to his delighted senses a field of important discovery. "The appearance, observed the Count, of this portion of the country, was as if it abounded in deep and frequent vallies, rendering the passage both difficult and tedious; an easier although longer route could at all events be taken by the sea coast, which avoiding the diverging branches of the range would carry the settlers and their produce either to Corner Inlet or to Westernport." Port Albert had not then been discovered. The Count thus describes his discovery as having in an extent of five thousand square miles, upwards of two hundred and fifty miles of sea coast, two already known harbours, Corner Inlet and Westernport, beside those for small craft, which may probably exist, eight navigable rivers in addition to a navigable lake, and lagoons bisecting two hundred miles of her length; three thousand six hundred square miles of forest, plains, and vallies which in richness of pasturage, soil, and situation, cannot be surpassed; two thousand square

miles of a coast range capped with blue, green, and black butt of a most excellent quality, and embracing vallies large and deep which hold out a fine prospect to the cattle breeder."

This portion of Australia Felix appears to be adapted by nature for agriculture. The frequent showers due to its proximity to the sea, the lowness of the greater part of the land, and the almost total immunity from hot winds, together with its sheltered position, render Gipp's Land one of the few places in New South Wales where agricultural pursuits can be entered upon with any great degree of certainty as to the result. This district abounds with fresh water rivers, and creeks without number; amongst the largest of the rivers are the Avon, the Glengarry, the Riley, the Thompson, and the Atkins; a stream of some magnitude has been traced for many miles, running in the direction of Corner Inlet, a large and safe harbour in longitude 146° 30'. This river, by some travellers called the La Trobe, is not the same river known by that designation to the settlers of Gipp's Land. In addition to numerous rivers there are several splendid lakes, into one of which three of the largest rivers empt themselves. It had long been a matter of uncertainty to the settlers whether this lake had not a navigable outlet to the sea, and in December, 1844, — Tyers, Esq., commissioner of crown lands for the district, accompanied by a party of gentlemen, proceeded to examine the shores. This lake is about fifteen miles in length, and was found to be connected with two other lakes of somewhat smaller dimensions, all of salt water, and having a tide with a rise and fall of two or three feet; this fact shewed that there was an entrance from the sea; the expedition having provided a good boat proceeded with it on a dray drawn by eight bullocks to the Glengarry,

(a river which empts itself into the lake about four miles below the bank of the river,) where the boat was launched, at a distance from Port Albert, whence the party set out from, of nearly sixty miles. Here they arrived all well, launched their boat, and sailing down to the lake remained three days cruising about on the bosom of its beautiful waters. They had the mortification to find an entrance nearly choked up by sand banks, rendering it unsafe for vessels even of the smallest kind; having thus accomplished the object of their mission they returned, but there is yet hope that some future band of discoverers may light upon a navigable outlet, and so open up these noble sheets of water to the purposes of man. The land for many miles around is thinly wooded, and the soil of the richest description; little labor only being requisite to make it produce every thing.

The aborigines were found to be more numerous in the neighbourhood of these lakes than in most of the other parts of New Holland; this may arise from the plentiful supply of fish their waters afford; they are very shy of white men, generally running away on their approach; they are observed to be finer looking men than the generality of New Hollanders, and display greater skill in the formation of their weapons, fish hooks, &c., &c. Some of the canoes made by these people, from the bark of several species of *eucalyptus,* are capable of carrying from six to ten persons; as they subsist chiefly on fish, the traveller may often notice them engaged in the peaceful occupation of catching the several species found in these waters. The night is the favourite season when their fragile canoes having a fire in them placed on mud or stones may be observed creeping along the shores in great numbers. Torches are lit and held high above the head of the fisher-

man, who waits patiently, scarcely moving except to wave his light and so throw out a stronger glare upon the waters. Presently a fish is discovered at a great depth, perhaps ten or twelve feet, about the length of the spear used. The native now intent upon his much coveted prey, balances his spear in expectation that the fish may rise to the surface; but no, it remains almost stationary; the temptation is too great for the poor darkey, and taking a steady aim, taught by nature to make an allowance for the refraction, he brings his spear down as near the fish as its length will allow, and darts it with all his force, still keeping the end in his hand; this he is obliged to do, as otherwise the wood it is made of being hard and solid it would sink to the bottom and carry the fish down with it. But look! he has speared his fish—it is a monstrous bream; and now all his art is necessary to preserve an equilibrium; a trifle either one side or the other will capsize his canoe and oblige him and his wife to swim on shore; as for drowning *that* is out of the question. At length after playing his fish for some time and still keeping hold of his spear, he proceeds to draw it in gently towards the bow of the canoe, where he is stationed with a tomahawk, with which instrument, when near enough, he inflicts a heavy blow on the fish's head, and so makes it an easy prey. Where the water continues deep close in shore, great numbers of fish are speared from the land. In the day the mode of fishing is generally with hooks made of bone.

Amongst other important features in Gipp's Land, are the immense plains or prairies which attract the notice of every traveller; they are of great extent, and commence from the banks of the river Glengarry, about fifty miles from the settlements at Port Albert, and are found to be in

On Stone by H? Hainfselin.

C. Risdon, Lith. Exeter.

some parts thirty miles wide; the mountain scenery on their borders is very magnificent and the streams are both deep and numerous. The tier of mountains, the loftiest yet discovered in New Holland, attaining to the height of seven thousand feet, may from this portion of the country be seen veiling their peaks in perpetual snows.

The greater part of this fine country has been occupied by the Sydney stockholders, who discovered a pass over the range of mountains which separate it from the plains of Menara and soon spread their flocks and herds over its rich pastures. It was only in the latter part of the year 1844, that the first stock were driven into Gipp's Land from the Melbourne side, after all the best and choicest pieces of country had been taken as stations by the Sydney people. For some years it had been considered impractable to take stock from Westernport to Gipp's Land in consequence of the tremendous country which intervened, travellers on foot declaring that they had found it a difficult matter to get through the thick and tangled scrubs which continually beset their path.

I had the fortune to be amongst the first party who succeeded in getting from the Port Philip side into Gipp's Land, with stock; an account of the journey will be found in the course of these pages.

Amongst the other harbours and roadsteads on the coast of Australia Felix, and not mentioned in the last chapter, are Westernport, Corner Inlet, Sealer's Cove, Bareback Cove, &c. No towns have yet been established on their shores. Westernport is situated in longitude 145° 30′, and latitude 38° 15′, and is a large expanse of water, divided by the island of Philip into two channels, the eastern and western. Its breadth is thirty miles, its depth forty-five, its circumference exceeds one hundred miles. There is good

anchorage in several parts of this bay for vessels of a large tonnage, but all the higher parts are rendered nearly useless for navigation except for small craft, in consequence of the number and extent of mud banks. There is another large island inside Philip island, which occupies a central position in the principal opening. French island, the largest of these, is about fifty miles round, and is found to be a useless mass of scrub, with a scarcity of water and a barren soil, but has in some parts near the sea timber good for the purposes of settlers who occasionally send men from the main land to procure it, water carriage being cheap. There are no permanent residents on the island; it is often resorted to by sportsmen during the breeding season of the black swans, for the sake of their eggs, which are taken in great quantities and are of good flavour. The bay of Westernport still abounds with this graceful bird, but it is probable from the manner in which they are persecuted, and their eggs taken, that in a few years they will disappear; although they are very numerous, still the natives of this part describe them as having been much more so before the white man came. Their nests are built of such plants as happen to be growing near on some low bit of land on the banks of a creek. The nest is raised by the parent birds to the height of a foot or eighteen inches, and a little down laid on the hollow top completes the structure. The female lays from three to six eggs, the size of those of a goose, of a white colour, and the period of incubation is about a month. At this season great quantities of the old birds are shot for the sake of their skin, the down of which is highly valued, but their numbers are greatly thinned from November until February, while they are moulting, as being unable to fly they then become an easy prey to the boatmen. I have known

twenty-three birds caught in six hours by one boat having only two men in her. They swim very fast, and when pressed hard can skim over the water at the rate of eight miles an hour, but a ten minutes chace generally tires them out.

Philip Island is not above half as large as French Island, but is much more valuable, as it affords sustenance to a large flock of sheep; the natural productions of both these islands are very scanty. A small species of the kangaroo tribe, called by the sealers paddy-melon, is found on Philip Island, whilst none have ever been seen on French Island; rats, snakes, musquitos, and land-flies, are the pests of both places. At certain seasons of the year numbers of aquatic birds resort to the swamps and lagoons for the purpose of laying their eggs; amongst them may be enumerated several species of ducks, swans, cape barren geese, pelicans, teal, penguins, and mutton birds.

The cape barren goose inhabits many of the islands in Bass's Straits, from whence at certain seasons it finds its way into Westernport; the general colour of the body is a brownish grey, ends of the wing feathers a dark brown, the top of the head white, its feet are webbed; two I shot on French Island weighed respectively ten and seven pounds.

Pelicans are very numerous, but both they and their eggs are useless. On passing a spot where these birds have alighted, a most disagreeable odour is perceived.

The mutton bird, or sooty petrel, found at some seasons on Philip Island, is about the size of the wood pigeon of England, and is of a dark colour. These birds are migratory, and are to be seen ranging over the surface of the great southern ocean far from land. They visit Bass's Straits

in September, and leave again in the beginning of November, after having scratched holes for the future reception of their eggs ; they return again near the end of the month, generally about the 25th, and lay their egg, which are the size of those of a duck, good for food, and incubated for about a month; they leave the islands with their young, early in May ; notwithstanding the wholesale slaughter committed upon them by man and birds of prey, their numbers are not perceptibly lessened. Many millions of these birds are destroyed annually for the sake of their feathers, and the oil of the young, which they are made to disgorge by pressing the craws, nature having supplied them with this provision for sustenance until they are able to fly and seek food for themselves. In consequence of the length of the wing feathers, they cannot rise from a level surface ; when discovered in this situation, they endeavour to reach the nearest elevation, and throw themselves from its summit, recovering the use of their wings in the descent.

The sealers have a method of preparing the birds, by salting and drying, in which state they have somewhat the flavour of red herrings, and are much to be preferred in this way to when fresh.

Flinders computed one of the flocks of mutton birds he saw in these seas to have been forty miles long. In sailing from Port Albert to the Melbourne Heads in 1844, our vessel was continually amongst flocks of from two miles to ten in length. These would rise as we approached, making a noise like distant thunder. When teased they endeavour to bite, but they cannot reach the hand if held by the wing ; it is noticed that places where these birds resort have a rich vegetation, and I have little doubt if trouble were taken, guano might be discovered in Bass's Straits on many of the islands, the number of aquatic birds resorting to them being immense.

After this digression, I will proceed with an account of the land on the main in the neighbourhood of Westernport. This is a fine part for agriculture, being in many portions lightly timbered, with an abundance of grass, and a moist climate; besides all which, it has the advantage of water carriage. There are many salt water creeks running several miles inland, on which farms could be formed to advantage. Good water is to be found in many parts; there is no navigable fresh water stream in Westernport; which is the chief reason no township has yet been formed here. The pasturage is rich, and was noted as producing the fattest cattle in Australia Felix. The portions which have been cultivated have made a good return; as long ago as 1842, I noticed growing in the garden of Messrs. Anderson and Massey, grapes, melons, apples, pears, peaches, currants, cape gooseberries, cherries, &c., &c.; these gentlemen had also then under good cultivation above one hundred acres of rich alluvial land; since that period much land in the neighbourhood of the bay has been cleared and brought into cultivation.

Good timber abounds fit for purposes of house and ship building, and is available in many parts.

An attempt made in 1827 to colonize the shores of this port by the Sydney government, resulted in a signal failure, but this circumstance must not be considered as in any way opposing my view of its favourable position. In the year before mentioned, an expedition was sent from Sydney for the purpose of taking possession, and occupying as a penal settlement the most eligible spot which might offer. A piece of land situated near its eastern shore, appeared to present the greatest advantages; the convicts were here disembarked, and were soon busily employed in making the necessary preparations for the formation of a

town; bricks were made, timber sawn, and a few houses and huts were constructed to destroy for a season the monotony of the wilderness; some land was fenced and cleared and was got under partial cultivation, and a flag staff was erected, the stump of which is still to be seen.

By the time these improvements had been effected the summer season commenced, and the colonists found that the creek on which the town was situated daily diminished in size. A dam was built across it, but not until too late, for the water had nearly ceased running and the wells were dried up. In this dilemma a search was instituted for water, but none was discovered at a convenient distance; so the only resource of the commandant was to re-embark all the convicts and military, and to return to their old quarters at Sydney. This was done; and thus the embryo settlement, after being occupied for a few months and having cost the executive government many thousand pounds, was left to its primeval solitude. This unlucky enterprise gave an impression of the incapabilities of the country, which subsequent events have proved to be unmerited.

From the position of Philip Island occupying the centre of the opening of the bay, there are two entrances into Westernport, the eastern and western; the western is that usually preferred for shipping—the eastern having a reef of sunken rocks running nearly across the opening. Vessels of a thousand tons could lay in safely inside Philip Island, but the trade of the bay does not at present require shipping of this tonnage. Several large men-of-war have at different periods had occasion to seek refuge in this safe and commodious harbour.

Sealer's Cove, Lady's Bay, and Bareback Cove, are three safe harbours, situated on the eastward of Wilson's

promontory, and have each been occupied as whaling stations. They are still favourite cruising places for the colonial whalers, many tons of oil being procured here annually. Numbers of fish must have been killed in Lady's bay, as the beach is literally strewed with their huge bones. On landing here in November, 1844, a discovery was made of a large tripod which had evidently been used for extracting the oil and was in good preservation. Near the shore lay the remains of a Captain Wishurt, a piece of board with carved letters on it, informing the visitor that "he belonged to a whaler, called the Wallaby, and was killed by the blow of a whale's fluke, in 1830." This board is nailed to a gum tree, and four stumps driven into the ground indicate the exact spot occupied by the body. His last resting place, situated far from the dwellings of man, a single grave, in the midst of solitude, cannot but attract the attention of the casual traveller.

Rabbit Island, situated near Lady's Bay, affords good shelter on its north-west coast for shipping, where vessels of large tonnage can lie in security during gales from the southward. This little island, about two miles in circumference, affords good sport and fresh meat to the whalers, who procure here great numbers of rabbits with which it abounds; the mutton birds and these animals conjointly have entire possession of the island. On the west side of the island there are the remains of a hut and garden, said to have been destroyed by the Gipp's Land Blacks, who came across from the main land, about two miles distant, in their canoes, and insisted on the occupants of the island leaving in their boat, which they did, and had the mortification of seeing their hut burned and the garden destroyed. The rocks around the shore are covered with a small species of muscle good for food.

Discovery Bay, being a mere roadstead, affords but poor shelter to shipping; it stretches from Portland Bay, eastward, to the boundaries of the province of South Australia.

Good anchorage and shelter is found under many of the islands in Bass's Straits, the difficult navigation of which is daily becoming better known. The very imperfect manner in which this dangerous passage has been surveyed, fully accounts for the fate of many vessels which are annually lost there; amongst the more recent total wrecks of large craft, I may mention the Isabella and the Cataraque. This event should influence the government in immediately completing a survey, which is found to be so necessary to the safety of British shipping and human life. The rivers of Australia Felix are numerous, and on casting a cursory glance over a map of New Holland, cannot fail to attract attention from their extent and number.

The Murray, supposed to be the largest river in New Holland, forms the northern and part of the eastern boundaries of the province. The Hume, Ovens, Devils, Yarrayne, Bayungun or Goulburn, Wimmera, and Broken rivers are in the interior. The Glenelg, Yarra Yarra, and Barwon, empty themselves in the sea. The Glengarry, La Trobe, Machonachi, Barney, Dunlop, Riley, Thompson, Atkins, and Pery in Gipp's Land, several of them emptying themselves into the lakes in that portion of Australia.

Amongst the lesser streams may be enumerated the Exe, Mackenzie, Shaw, Lodon, Norton, Fitzroy, Crawford, Weirabee, Tarwin, Lang Lang-berin, and the Bass, which last river empties itself into the bay of Westernport.

The Murray or Hume, takes its rise in the Australian Alps, near Lake Omio, and taking a N.N.W. course to its junction

with the Murrumbidgee, then flows westerly into a large lake in the province of South Australia.

The Bayungun or Goulburn river, is a noble stream, supposed to take its rise in the Australian Alps, and after a course of more than four hundred miles connects itself with the Hume.

The Wimmera, discovered by Major Mitchell in 1836, rises in the ranges of the Pyrenees, and after a course of nearly two hundred miles discharges itself into Lake Hindmarsh. This river rises from the coast and flows into the interior, it has two small tributaries, the M'Kenzie and Norton.

The Ovèns is a tributary of the Murray. The Glenelg, the grand discovery of Major Mitchell, was first seen by him in lat. 37° s. longitude 141° 52′ w. Proceeding from this point in a south by east direction, and crossing several small streams he fell in again with this river in latitude 37° 30′ shortly after passing the Wando, a tributary from the country to the eastward. Twenty miles farther south he met and crossed the Wannon, which forms a junction with the main stream in latitude 37° 40′. Pursuing a route down the stream he reached a point where the Glenelg receives the Crawford. Here leaving his waggons, &c., Major Mitchell, with a boat's crew embarked on the stream, having there a uniform width of fifty yards, and followed the river to its outlet in the sea in latitude 38° 2′ south. The width of the Glenelg at its entrance is upwards of one hundred yards, with a depth of five fathoms; a bar of sand lies directly across its mouth leaving only water sufficient for very small craft to proceed into its deeper waters.

The Yarra Yarra is supposed to take its rise at the back of the mountainous country seen from Westernport, and after a course of probably one hundred and fifty or two

hundred miles discharges itself into the bay of Port Philip. As we proceed higher up this river it is found to assume those appearances peculiar to a mountain stream flowing between high steep banks, in many parts rocky and densely wooded. It is navigable for vessels of two hundred tons, eight miles from the sea, where a dam having been constructed across it for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of Melbourne with fresh water, effectually prevents the navigation from extending further.

The Bass is a small river rising in the Westernport ranges, and after a short course empties itself into the eastern arm of Westernport. This unimportant stream was named after the surgeon of the Reliance, who with only a whaleboat and six men, carried into execution a survey of the southern coast, and was the first to discover the capacious harbour of Westernport.

The Mountains of Australia Felix are not remarkable for size or number, excepting the snowy ranges of Gipp's Land be considered, which attain to seven thousand feet in altitude.

The Grampians, situated at Portland bay, form the central and principal features of the country westward of Port Philip. The Pyrenees lay to the eastward of this range, and are scattered ranges running in a direction from north to south.

Mount Macedon is a bold mass, visible from the town of Melbourne; it is well wooded, and can be crossed by a traveller on horseback; from its summit a fine view is obtained of the surrounding country, and of the bay of Port Philip.

Mount Hope is a hill so named by Major Mitchell, because from its brow he obtained the first glimpse of the land of Australia Felix.

Mount Disappointment is situated at the head of the river Plenty, about forty miles distant from Melbourne; it is thickly timbered, and covered with a vine scrub of an almost impenetrable nature. It was this obstruction which obliged the travellers Hovell and Hume to turn back, after nearly penetrating to Port Philip, and leave in the name attached to the hill, a memento of their undeserved and unexpected failure.

Station Peak is the highest point of the Villemanata range, and is a well known land-mark in the harbours of Port Philip and Geelong.

The Westernport ranges extend as far as Cape Schank and Wilson's promontory.

Mount Napier, and the Mamoidal hills bear indication of being of volcanic origin.

Australia Felix contains within its boundaries many lakes of magnitude and importance.

Lake Carangymite is the name given by the Barable natives to a large sheet of water in longitude 133° 10'. It is about fifty miles from the town of Geelong; Dr. Thomson, an enterprising settler was the first to discover its real character, as it was supposed to be an arm of the sea, but he found it was a lake upwards of ninety miles in circumference; its waters are salt, and are so shallow to the southward that the natives walk across it a distance of fifteen miles; there is deep water to the northward; several small fresh water streams empty themselves into it in different quarters.

The fresh waters of Lake Hindmarsh are estimated to be thirty miles in circumference, and are supplied by the Wimera; it is situated in the midst of a barren country.

Among the other lakes are Boga, near the junction of the Bayungun and the Hume, its waters are fresh, and its circumference is twelve miles.

Lake Linlithgow is one of several pieces of water in the neighbourhood of the Grampians, all situated in the midst of a fertile and productive country.

Lake Colac is the largest of a number of salt lakes situate in the neighbourhood of Carangymite, and surrounded by land of a most delightful and fertile description. To these may be added the large lakes in Gipp's Land, which have not yet been sufficiently explored to admit of a more particular account; but there can be no doubt from their situation and extent, and from their position in the midst of a country unsurpassed in natural capabilities for agricultural pursuits, that they must very shortly rise into importance, probably a few years will suffice for a flourishing town springing into existence in this quarter of Australia.

Having given these brief notices of the natural peculiarity of Australia Felix, and the steps it has already made towards civilization, a few observations upon the animal and vegetable kingdom will not be inappropriate, merely premising that for the persevering naturalist no better field could exist than this for the advancement of science. Its inhabitants, too closely engaged in their several occupations of sheep farming, cattle breeding, &c., to turn their attention to scientific pursuits have left the field untouched; they have observed nature only as far as she favours their interests, and seldom notice a tract of country closer than to discover if it affords good pasturage for their flocks and herds. It might be imagined that the monotony of a bushman's life would induce many to seek some relief by applying their minds to a more extended and general enquiry into the natural objects around them; but it is always found when a bushman has once settled on a station, his cares grow around him daily, he is always doing some-

thing to add to his improvements as well as to occupy his time which he prefers to spend in such active pursuits as will increase the value of his location. To the educated colonist this country presents a fine field to augment his own store of knowledge, and to add to that of the world at large. Its botany, mineralogy, geology, entomology, and ornithology are very imperfectly known.

It has been observed that the species forming the animal kingdom of this province, with but few exceptions, are the same as those common in New South Wales.

The different kinds of the kangaroo and opossum, are the most familiar to the colonists; the flying squirrel, or tuan, is much sought after for its fine fur; of these there are two kinds, a large one of a dark colour, only found in the mountains; and a smaller description found in all parts of the colony, and better known by the native name tuan.

The bear, *(phascolmys)* of the colonists, is in reality a species of sloth, and partakes of all the characteristics of that animal; it is of the marsupial order, and is found chiefly in the neighbourhood of thickly timbered high land; its flesh is used by the aborigines for food, but is tough and unpalatable; its usual weight is from eight to twelve pounds. The opossum tribe is very numerous in many portions of the country; and feeds on grass and the leaves of trees, and is marsupial.

The wild dog, a species of wolf about the size of a small Newfoundland dog, commits great ravages amongst the sheep of the settlers, destroying great numbers whenever an opportunity offers. These animals prowl around the sheep-yards at night, and snapping through the hurdles at the inmates, cause them to rush in a body in the opposite direction, often throwing down the hurdles, of which the yards are made, (to allow of their being shifted every other

day,) and so leaving the sheep at large, and open to the tender mercies of those savage creatures. They are never seen in any number at a time, but most generally in pairs, excepting when a bitch and her puppies may be discovered in cover. They run on scent, and are not particularly fleet; very few tame dogs will kill one singly, as they have an instinctive fear of their poisonous fangs, a wound from a wild dog always taking some time to heal. It is a frequent occurrence on cattle stations, to find the young calves with their tails bitten off by these destructive creatures; they will trot along for miles behind a horse and rider, but I never heard of their attacking either; I was followed by one in this manner for more than four miles close to a station, where the dogs kept on it, caught and killed it. These creatures are eaten by the aborigines, after being roasted on hot stones; on my desiring a native to throw one away he had killed as useless and bad for food, he very naively remarked, "you eat pig, black fellow eat wild dog; white fellow say, 'no good wild dog,' black fellow say, 'no good pig.'" The wild dog is one of the few animals of this country, which does not produce its young in a pouch.

The Wombat is a large kind of badger, which burrows in the ground to a considerable depth, and is taken by the blacks for food; it makes a noise when attacked in its hole something similar to the grunting of a pig. The method by which the natives catch them is as follows:—having discovered the orifice by which it descends into its strong hold, a black boy enters, and crawling or scrambling on as he best can, follows out the burrow until by the cry of its occupier he hears its position, when by thumping on the earth, he instructs the blacks above where to commence digging for their prey; this operation is performed with pointed sticks, hardened in the fire, and having reached the

object of their search, the animal is assailed with blows from tomahawks, waddys and stones which soon dispatch him. The black boy all this time stationed in the hole to prevent the retreat of the wombat, now emerges a most ludicrous figure, covered with dirt, his appearance is generally hailed with shouts of laughter, no doubt induced greatly by the success of the hunting party. The flesh is rank and disagreeable to a European palate, but is greatly relished by the natives.

There are many species of the kangaroo tribe to be met with in the forests of Australia Felix, from the great bush kangaroo, standing five and six feet high, to the diminutive kangaroo rat, about six inches in height. The wallaby is a peculiar description living generally in scrubs, and only coming into the open forest to feed at night; they are killed in great numbers for the sake of the skins.

Kangaroo hunting is the finest sport the colony affords, but from the immense number killed in the neighbourhood of stations, they are gradually but perceptibly diminishing; still, they are to be met with within ten miles of Melbourne, but few and far between. A species of dog, a breed between a greyhound and a bulldog, is the best kind for hunting these animals, being fleet and strong; this sport is usually pursued on horseback, but great numbers are killed on foot with the rifle and dogs. They sometimes afford excellent sport, and there are not instances wanting where much danger and excitement have attended it. The "old men"* kangaroos are always the largest and strongest in the flock, or in colonial language, "mob." These when attacked, run a short distance and then turn and shew fight to the dogs; two or three of which generally constitute the pack—and then the excitement of the sport begins.

* The term "old man" is applied invariably to large male kangaroos.

—the old gentleman waits patiently for the attack, and there is no little tack required either on the part of the huntsman or his dogs, the kangaroos being endowed with a large proportion of cunning, and although naturally timid and harmless, when driven to desperation prove formidable antagonists, they can use both their hind and fore legs in defending themselves, and with these frequently tear completely asunder the bodies of young or ill-trained dogs which may have attacked them in an imprudent position or unattended by their more experienced comrades—but I by no means wish to depreciate the assistance offered by the dog which has always proved so valuable to man, especially in his attempts to subdue wild animals, for when properly educated he has learnt to be careful how he attacks the kangaroo, and with due precautions, generally comes off the victor, but if the huntsman see occasion, he also renders his assistance, and the beast seems conscious of the superior strength of his new opponent, for he then turns his whole attention to the man, who is generally armed with a long and a short stick, and keeping his game at bay with the latter, deals at every opportunity a cruel blow with the other, if he by these means be unable to keep his now infuriated adversary at a proper distance, he has recourse to his deadly knife; but it is dangerous to get too near its well-armed limbs.

Travelling one bright summer's day along the banks of a creek in Gipp's Land, which the scorching sun had left little more than a succession of water-holes, and pondering on the probable destinies of the country I was passing through, then a vast wilderness, my reveries were interrupted by loud cries for help mixed with cooeys* and curses—I was the more surprised to find the sounds suddenly cease,

* A cry for assistance used in all the Australian Colonies.

but only for a short time, when the lungs of the individual appeared to have gathered from fear or some other unaccountable stimulus, additional strength, and on making for the spot whence the sounds seemed to proceed, I was somewhat startled when I saw standing in the midst of a water hole, a huge old man kangaroo—a dog was laying on the brink torn in several places, and bleeding profusely —my first impulse was to fire my rifle at the kangaroo, but my attention was diverted by seeing a human head with the face scratched and bloody, thrust up from among some reeds which were growing around the margin of the water.

The mystery of the shouting was now clear enough; it was evident that the man and the kangaroo had been having a fight in the water hole, the human combatant having come off the worst. I was happy to find my new acquaintance did not require aid further than to assist him out of the mire into which he had floundered in endeavouring to get out of the water. As soon as he was safely landed and I had examined his wounds, which looked worse than they really were, he begged me to oblige him with my rifle to settle the "old man," by whom he informed me he had very nearly been drowned, when he had the good fortune to scramble in amongst the reeds, but as he was trembling very much I thought the safest plan would be to do this part of the business myself, but on casting my eyes in the direction of the enemy, who had scarcely moved from the time of my appearance I was so struck with the poor animal's helplessness that more merciful feelings took possession of me, and so giving a loud shout I had the satisfaction of seeing him emerge from the muddy bank and betake himself once more to his native wilds. This mode of proceeding did not meet with the hunter's approval,

at which I was not much surprised on account of the excited state he was in. He informed me he had left his station in the morning for the purpose of hunting kangaroos. He had soon discovered some, and his dogs ran one for some distance, but only his finest dog had returned to him. Proceeding with his sport, notwithstanding his diminished resources and having no fire-arms, he lighted on the "old man" who had afforded him such recreation, and immediately sent after him the only remaining dog. The animal did not run far but stopped near the water-hole, keeping his canine pursuer at bay. The keen huntsman had done his part too, in attempting to knock down their mutual antagonist when it suddenly left the dog and attacked the man, and at one bound threw itself and its human enemy into the water-hole together, when said the hunter he employed himself in pushing my head under water every time I endeavoured to gasp for air or to scramble out. The dog had, it appears, attacked him in the water-hole but to little purpose, being disabled by his wounds, and it was at this juncture that the hunter had succeeded in reaching the reeds, had the animal's attention not been drawn away from the man to the dog most probably the result would have been fatal. It is a common occurrence for kangaroos to get purposely into these water holes when attacked, and appear quite conscious of the advantage they possess over the dogs in doing so. The hunter having cleansed himself of the mire and blood with which he was covered from head to foot, proceeded to search for his hunting knife which he had lost in the struggle but could not find it; most probably it was in the pit he had left. His faithful dog also required to be attended to, it had received a deep cut from the hind legs of the kangaroo which are armed each with a single claw about six inches long and as hard as

ivory. Having sewn up the wound we proceeded on our separate ways, the hunter declaring that when he went kangarooing again it should not be without his rifle nor with only one dog.

When game has been plentiful I have known two dogs kill nine kangaroos in the course of one day. Slaughter of this wholesale description must soon depopulate many parts of the bush and deprive the aborigines of their chief means of subsistance, this consideration ought to weigh with the settlers and their servants, for the native must have food, and if he finds it destroyed by the white man he will most assuredly help himself out of their flocks and herds, and hostilities between the two parties will be the frequent result. Dogs when properly trained to this sort of hunting endeavour to seize the animal's tail, and by pulling it on one side throw it off its balance when it falls to the ground, and they then have a better opportunity of attacking it in a vital part. The muscles of the hind legs and tail are of great size and strength, and enable the kangaroo to make the enormous springs which it does when pursued, frequently leaping the distance of twenty feet, and at every bound coming to the earth with a heavy thump which shakes under its weight. This can be heard in the solitudes of the bush for a considerable distance when the weather is calm.

The natives kill these animals as they do most others, by sneaking as close as possible under cover of some green boughs carried before their body in one hand, whilst with the other they grasp the rifle or the scarce less destructive spear. It is astonishing how close they can approach to their game by this simple contrivance, which they always endeavour to manage in the wind's eye, as the sailors say, that is, with the wind blowing from the animal to them—

should they endeavour to come down with the wind, the kangaroos sense of smell is so acute that it would be next to impossible for a shot to be fired with any advantage—they toss their heads in the air, smell cautiously around them, and having apparently decided that there is danger lurking near, bound off to some safer feeding ground.

The skin and sinews are articles of great importance to the native, with the one he provides himself covering, and the other serves the purposes of thread in sewing the different skins together, the needle being made of a piece of sharpened bone, by which holes are bored and the sinews are afterwards introduced and drawn tight—although common English needles can be procured in most parts of the settled districts, the natives still adhere to the old method.

These animals and their legitimate owners are fast dwindling away before the steady steps of civilization and improvement, or seek remoter wilds where the white man's rifle is never heard, and where nature still holds undisputed sway.

All the different species of kangaroos, the wallaby, paddy-melon, kangaroo rat, and the bandicoot are eaten by the natives, and form with the oppossum tribe, their principal sustenance. The kangaroo rat is an animal about the size of a common rat, but nearly in the form of the larger species of kangaroo; the great distinction consisting in its having a long bushy tail; the other kinds having a thick stiff tail, which is used in running as a balance.

Platypus, or water-moles, *(ornithoryncus paradoxus)* are found in great numbers in most of the rivers and creeks in Australia. These animals, from their peculiar conformation, have been so minutely observed by naturalists, that any

attempt of mine to add to the information already obtained as to their habits and peculiarities would prove tedious.

The great question amongst men of learning arises from the uncertainty of their manner of breeding—many affirming that they are oviparous. When in the bush I made many endeavours at different seasons of the year to solve the mystery, but was always unsuccessful. As a last resource I asked some blacks to get me some young ones, as they assured me this interesting creature did not lay eggs, but produced its young in the same manner as other quadrupeds, very seldom exceeding two at a birth. They accordingly procured me two specimens, but they were half grown, and I was obliged to remain in the same state of uncertainty, although but little doubt remains on my mind that they are viviparous. These animals are always found in the neighbourhood of fresh water, scarcely ever leaving it except to get into their holes which they construct in the muddy banks of a river, or to enjoy the heat of the sun on a half immersed log. Their eyes are very small, but their vision is excessively acute rendering it an exceedingly difficult matter to shoot them. The skin of the full grown one when properly prepared is about nine inches in length by seven in breadth, and is superior in texture to beaver, but the small size would I imagine, render it unserviceable to the manufacturer. The flesh is eaten by the natives, and is said to be sweet and grateful food. From this it appears probable that the animal does not feed on fish as is generally supposed. A creature described by the natives as something very similar to an ouran-outang, is supposed by many colonists to exist in the mountain ranges at the back of Westernport, but their ideas of it are mixed up with such a superstitious dread as to induce many to consider it only in the light of an imaginary being, created

by their own fears, or by interested parties amongst themselves; but the fact of some strange and peculiar tracks having been noticed in the ranges, recorded in the Port Philip papers at the time they were discovered, and many other circumstances seem to indicate that there is some animal resident there which has not yet been seen by a white man, and from the position of this tract of country being quite out of any road pursued by European travellers, it is very possible such a thing may exist. An account of this animal was given me by Worrouge-tolon, a native of the Woeworong tribe, in nearly the following words—"He is as big as a man and shaped like him in every respect, and is covered with stiff bristly hair, excepting about the face, which is like an old man's, full of wrinkles —he has long toes and fingers, and piles up stones to protect him from the wind or rain, and usually walks about with a stick, and climbs trees with great facility; the whole of his body is hard and sinewy, like wood to the touch." Worrongy also told me, "that many years since, some of these creatures attacked a camp of natives in the mountains and carried away some women and children, since which period they have had a great dread of moving about there after sunset. The only person of his tribe now alive, who had killed one, he informed me, was Carbora, the great doctor, who had succeeded in striking one in the eye with his tomahawk, on no other part of its body was he able to make the least impression." All this might be very probable when it is considered that in the time before the white people came, their golboranarrook or stone tomahawk, was not by any means a sharp weapon. The body of the South American sloth is to the touch as hard as wood, and I question much if a tomahawk such as I have described would make any impression on its thick skin.

On one occasion when pheasant shooting, about three days journey in the mountains, in company with two natives and a white man, we constructed a bark hut, and had retired to repose, when shortly afterwards I was startled by a most peculiar cry, very different from any of the other noises which are heard from the wild animals inhabiting these ranges; I should have previously mentioned that the blacks after the fatigues of the day had very soon fallen asleep, but on the noise rousing them, they both started up, and seized their guns with the utmost horror depicted in their countenances. Not a word escaped them, and the mysterious sound still echoed amongst the hills. On my asking one in rather a loud voice, what he was frightened at, he desired me not to speak loud, that the shouts which had aroused them proceeded from a bundyil-carno, or devil, which is the name they have given this thing. The noise shortly died away in the distance, and I once more endeavoured to sleep; neither of my natives would lay down for the night, and as soon as day dawned, they insisted on leaving the scene of this strange occurrence, and on going to some distant part. I walked in the direction whence I supposed the sound had proceeded the previous night, but could see no sign of the bushes having been disturbed, or any fresh scratches on the smooth bark of the gum trees; the cry, which much resembled the scream of a woman, was so very different to any other I had been accustomed to hear in the bush, that I have no doubt it proceeded from some animal unknown to the colonists on the plains. I had imagined at first on being disturbed, from the terror exhibited by the natives, that some wild blacks were near us, and that they were preparing for an attack, but on being informed that the devil was the only cause of their fear, I must say I felt more at my ease

in his company than I should have done surrounded by savages on a dark night, and in a strange country, without a star to guide us out of the labyrinth of creeks, scrubs, and fallen timber we were in.

CHAPTER IV.

THE birds of Australia Felix are numerous, and of fine plumage. The forests abound with many descriptions of paroquets, cockatoos, and parrots, by far the most beautiful amongst all the other feathered tribes of New Holland; amongst these may be enumerated the king parrot, the lory, the ground parrot, and the rosella. Two kinds of black cockatoos are found here; one having a red tail, the other yellow. White cockatoos of several descriptions are numerous—all parts of the bush resounding with their discordant shrieks. There are miners, swallows, thrushes, blue wrens, diamond birds, land rails, dab chicks, king fishers, red bills, curlews, &c., &c.

Three kinds of magpies are common here; one of them very much resembling that found in England, except that in its plumage, the places of the black and white are severally transposed; this bird, also like its British compeer, can be taught to whistle and talk; its natural note is very clear and shrill, and of a fine sunny morning makes the woods ring with its merry sound.

There is a fine field for the enjoyment of a sportsman in the numbers of pigeons, doves, snipes, quail, various ducks and sea fowl, wild turkeys, spur winged plovers, native companions, pheasants in the mountain ranges, and

several other birds, which are discovered in great numbers in their favourite haunts.

The native companion is a noble bird of the crane kind, standing three feet high; it requires the greatest circumspection in the sportsman to get a shot at it. These birds and the stately emu are both found on open plains—the emu affords excellent sport—it is shaped something like an ostrich, and although it has no wings, runs with great swiftness, out-stripping a fleet horse. It is usually hunted with dogs trained for the purpose, of the same breed as the dogs used for hunting kangaroos; the method adopted by a good dog in killing emus, is to run along side of them, and seize them by the neck, not by the legs, a kick from their hard and knotty legs is as bad if not worse than from a horse. The oil extracted from the skin of this bird, is held in high repute by the colonists as an application for bruises, rheumatism, &c., the natives also prize it highly; this is by far the largest bird found in the province.

Eagles and hawks of great size and power infest the country, proving very destructive to young lambs, but at the same time, although they do a deal of mischief, they consume all the deserted carrion, and with the assistance of the crows are of the same use as the vultures in India, being in short the scavengers of the bush. Near the sea coasts pelicans and black swans abound, and many of the aquatic birds found in this quarter of the world.

There is a description of duck in addition to those kinds frequenting marshes, found in the interior, and called in the colony the wood duck, it is very delicious food, and abounds near rivers and stagnant water. This bird roosts on the boughs of trees.

The pheasant, or lyre bird, *(menura superba)* so called from the form of its tail in shape much resembling that

of a lyre, is found chiefly in the mountains, and as I shall more particularly mention this bird in another part, it is unnecessary to notice it further now. The body is not at all remarkable for beauty either in shape or colour; like the kangaroo, its tail is the only part that is valued.

The laughing jackass, or settler's clock, is an uncouth looking creature of an ashen brown colour, with some bright spots of a bluish colour about the wings, it has a large strong bill, with which it attacks all kinds of snakes and reptiles with impunity which form its principal food. Its name is a very good indication of what its note really is, being most discordant and unearthly. A stranger in the bush is generally "taken aback" when he hears for the first time its fiendish laughter. This bird is the first to indicate by its note the approach of day, and thus it has received its other name, the settler's clock.

A bird of the owl species, called by the colonists more pork, and by the natives whuck-whuck, derives both its names from the peculiarities of its note. At some distance it reminds one of the song of the cuckoo, when nearer it sounds hoarse and discordant.

Many of the smaller birds of this province living chiefly on honey, are provided in place of a tongue with an organ of taste split into a number of very fine fibres, beautifully adapted for providing themselves with their particular descriptions of food.

Several species of larks charm the stranger with their desultory song, but little inferior to the melody of their British namesakes.

The coach whip is a small bird about the size of a sparrow, found near rivers—it derives its name from its note, a slow, clear whistle, concluded by a sharp jerking noise like the crack of a whip.

The bell bird, about the same size as the last-mentioned, is a small brown creature with yellow legs and bill, has a tinkling note, and its presence is a certain indication of fresh water being near. Its note is a cheering sound to the thirsty traveller, who hears in it an invitation to partake of the grateful stream.

The carrion crow is very like the British variety, but its croak is more like that of the raven. It is rather a strange circumstance that a nest of these birds has never yet been found in Australia Felix, and even the natives of the country are ignorant of their places of breeding.

Spoon bills are found in swamps and marshy grounds, and many descriptions of cranes.

The osprey, or fish hawk, is often seen hovering and stooping for its prey near the shores of lakes and bays. When residing on French Island, in Westernport, a pair of these birds built their nest on a high stringy bark tree near my hut, finding all my endeavours to get at it fruitless, and wishing to procure a specimen, I waited for the arrival of the old birds and shot one with a large porcupine fish in its claws still alive, which was armed on all sides with strong prickles, and weighed above two pounds. The nest I should imagine, was more than fifteen feet in circumference.

Pelicans abound in many of the bays of Westernport and Port Philip, and when engaged in fishing a large flock of them form a very agreeable addition with their white plumage to the marine scenery. These birds lay their eggs on a few twigs and roots placed in loose order in a heap upon the sand—they are useless for food; both the birds and the eggs emit a disagreeable odour.

The black swan is found in many parts of the colony, occasionally very far inland where water is plentiful. This

bird feeds on a kind of grass, which grows at the bottom of shallow waters.

The beautiful, but destructive satin birds, are found in great numbers all over the bush, and are a pest to the gardens of the settlers, destroying large quantities of vegetables. The male birds, when three years old, complete their plumage, which is of a glossy black; before this period they are speckled with green.

The nankeen bird is a species of crane, and frequents the banks of rivers or creeks. Its general colour is a dark yellow, but it has a few long white feathers growing from the head and drooping over its back, which adds greatly to its beauty. For further information in this department of the natural history of this country, I must refer my reader to a work from the perusal of which he will derive every information, "Gould's Birds of Australia." I will now proceed to notice those reptiles which from their size or destructive propensities are deserving of attention. These consist of snakes of many kinds, guanas, lizards, a small kind of water tortoise caught in the Goulburn, and said by the natives to be a delicious article of food. Bull, tree, and many other kinds of frogs, &c., &c.

During my residence in the province I only heard of two instances of persons suffering from the bites of snakes, one of these was that of a native who in walking round the foot of a tree looking on the bark for tracks of opossums, unwittingly placed his foot on a brown snake which bit him in the thigh; the poor fellow died that night, although his wife who was with him at the time of the accident used every means in her power to save her cooly's life, and had tied a legature tightly above the wound. The other instance was that of a black snake biting a shepherd in the service of my good friends H. and A. Ruffey, of

Westernport. He was moving a log of wood at the time and was bitten in the thigh, but the result was less serious than in the first case, for one of his fellow labourers sucked the poison from the wound, which saved his life. The brown description is considered the more poisonous. Snakes are met with nine months out of the year on stony rises covered with brushwood and fallen timber, and many swamps are also swarming with them; on their first coming out of their winter retreats they are much more dangerous than during the hot summer season, when they are active and flee from man, whereas during the chilly weather they will allow a person to step on them without moving out of his way, and thus render the chance of a bite much more probable. On several occasions during my wanderings, my feet have been within an inch of these creatures, but they never showed any symptoms of hostility, probably from my retreat not allowing them time to do so. The blacks declare that every variety is poisonous, but have a much greater fear of some than of others. They describe several kinds as most venomous, amongst which are the brown snake, the diamond snake, and a brown snake with a red belly, which last I have only seen on French Island, they say when a man is bitten by any of these, "he no more walks about, only lies down and dies." A specimen of the last mentioned, made his way into my hut on the Island, and deposited himself under my bed, luckily he was noticed and killed, or it is probable I should have found myself in a position to speak of him from sad experience; this fellow was five feet two inches in length.

Many varieties of the lizard tribe are met with all over the bush, but they are harmless; one kind known as the sleeping lizard, *(cycladus gigas)* was long considered venomous, but I have reason to think it is not so, for on

one occasion when engaged in skinning one of this sort I accidently wounded my hand with the teeth, and felt no ill effects from it, although from my position at the time being on French Island and alone, the circumstance was any thing but pleasant. The smaller descriptions feed on flies and other small insects.

The gigantic, or tree lizard, attains to the enormous length of two yards, its feet are provided with long claws, by means of which it climbs trees with great facility; the back is of a black colour with several rings of white, and it is white under the body. I have been informed by the natives, that this species frequently kills kangaroos by dropping down upon them when feeding under trees, and sucking their blood.

Some of the frogs of this land are very beautiful; they are numerous in all the swamps and low grounds. The bull frog has a croak particularly loud and intonated, resembling the noise made by striking a long piece of thin board on one end. The tree frogs are heard croaking in the trees previous to rain, and are a very small species.

The fish are numerous, and many of them excellent food. Amongst those fit for use may be mentioned, the guard fish, schnapper, brim, salmon, trout, rock cod, unicorn fish, peacock fish, flat heads, cray fish, oysters, muscles, and small crabs, all of which inhabit the salt water. Of those not eatable are sharks, stingaries, maid-fish, pig fish, porcupine, and toad fish, the last are virulently poisonous. The fresh water fish are the following; black fish, which sometimes attain to the weight of eight pounds; cod caught in the Goulbourn, to the weight of thirty-five pounds, or even more; herrings found in the Yarra at certain seasons of the year, and mostly considered as a very

delicious dish; a small kind of fish called trout, but not at all similar to the English variety; eels of great size and richness of flavour; fresh water cray fish, and several other kinds of fish good for food.

The sharks in most of the bays and at the entrances of rivers are very numerous, and are frequently caught by fishermen, but I never heard a well authenticated instance of a fatal accident from the voracity of this creature so proverbial. It is a common custom for seamen of the different vessels lying in Hobson's Bay, to jump overboard to bathe, though large sharks are occasionally seen there. That they are not void of that voracity which characterizes them in other parts of the world the following incident which happened will testify.

Whilst in a small boat, accompanied by my friends Curle and Ker, taking a cruise in Westernport, and endeavouring to catch fish for dinner, a shoal of porpoises, great enemies to fishermen, played about the boat, and as usual frightened our anticipated dinner away, for from the time of their arrival no other fish were to be seen. Now although the flesh of the porpoise is not bad as a fresh dish at sea, yet it forms but a poor substitute for the delicious fish which abound in the bay of Westernport. Having a harpoon in the boat, and also requiring some oil at our hut, it was considered advisable to make a virtue of necessity and secure one at least of our tormenters. Accordingly Curle stationed himself in the bow, and had not to wait long for a good opportunity to strike home, which he did most effectually, for the animal after a five minutes' struggle quietly resigned himself to his fate. The water was discoloured with blood for some distance around; we had by means of a noose got the huge fish alongside and lashed the rope to one of the seats of the boat, and were soon all busily

employed in cutting out the iron from its body, when a large shark made its appearance in our wake, attracted I suppose by the blood, and was soon in disagreeable proximity to us, with his nose out of water, and touching the side of the boat, he commenced lugging and tearing at our prize, the harpoon still being in its body and rocking the boat in a most exciting manner. To detract from the chances of escape in case of a capsize, some half dozen smaller sharks occasionally shewed us their flukes above water, and we were more than a mile from shore. Nothing effectual could be done without getting out the harpoon, which was rather dangerous to attempt, for the shark was decidedly hungry, and a little human food might have been preferred for a change. Perceiving a small tea tree spear in the boat, I endeavoured to keep him at bay with it until the iron could be extracted, and for this purpose the next time he opened his immense jaws I unceremoniously pushed the spear down its throat as hard as my strength would allow; it was a mere toothpick for him, he bit it in two without much effort, but sheered off for a minute or two picking up several small pieces of flesh floating about. However he gave us time to get out the harpoon, and when next he disputed our right to the prize, Curle, our harpooner, threw the iron with such effect that it went completely through him. He hardly moved after being struck, and we afterwards found the back bones had been separated. Cutting off his head as a trophy, we cast his body adrift and reached shore with our two prizes, but the tide having got very low, and Westernport being full of mud banks at low water, we were obliged to land at Sandy Point on French Island, where we paid the penalty for our day's sport by having to spend the night without fresh water, food, or blankets. The jaw we afterwards cleaned, and found it would have admitted

a man's head very comfortably. The sharks found in these seas are of many kinds; the most numerous being the blue, tiger, and shovel nose.

The unicorn fish, so called from having a moveable horn situated on the top of its head, which serves as a powerful means of offence or defence, is also found in Australia.

The peacock fish, a good deal like the dolphin, is remarkable for the rainbow colours it exhibits when dying.

The stingray is a large and flat fish, and something like that known in England as maids, but has a long whip tail armed with several stings of a hard jagged horny substance of various lengths, with which it can inflict terrible wounds. I have taken this fish having these weapons six inches in length, they are more dreaded by bathers than sharks, as they are generally found in shallow waters.

There are not wanting instances where these fish have inflicted mortal injury. A seaman of the "Majestic," when she was at anchor in Geelong harbour, was going ashore in a boat, and when near the beach ran her aground, and getting out for the purpose of walking to land, accidentally placed his foot on the back of one, which by a quick motion of the tail plunged its sting into the poor fellow's thigh, who shortly died from the effects of the wound; but many instances have occurred where no ill effects have followed, except such as might have been expected from a common wound.

As in all warm climates the insect tribes are numerous, and in many cases dangerous and destructive. During all the summer, moschetos in the swampy low country and by the banks of rivers are most annoying, but these little pests are scarcely ever seen in the town of Melbourne. Perhaps a worse nuisance exists in the sand flies, no larger than a grain of sand, but these are only numerous in certain

localities, their bite is worse than that of the moscheto, but the former is not to be got rid of so easily, for smoke has little or no effect on them, whilst the latter will not come near smoke of any kind. The unfortunate person who finds himself beset by these tormenters, must bear with them without scratching the bite, for in that case he would find himself covered with blisters. Unlike the moscheto, they disappear as soon as darkness comes on, and appear again with the first streak of morning light, putting a most disagreeable conclusion to the night's repose; it is rather laughable to see a camper out, who has perhaps retired to repose in the open air with a most sober looking nose, rise in the morning with a proboscis swollen and fiery as if he had been paying his devotions to the jolly god all his life. New comers are particularly subject to the attacks of these two descriptions of insects.

The locusts, *(cicades)* enliven the woods in the summer with their perpetual chirping; they measure about two inches in length, and are winged; they deposit a kind of honey on the trees they inhabit, which hardens into small white cakes, and is known to the colonists as manna. They have never been found to be destructive to the crops or gardens of the settlers, although in many seasons they appear in immense numbers; this is not the case with the swarms of grasshoppers which cover the bush in the hot season, and occasionally leave a garden quite bare by their ravages. They do not arrive at a great size, but are the most destructive of any insect known in the colony. The mole cricket is found all over the bush, and warns the traveller by its note when to expect rain. Several beautiful descriptions of mantis are found; one kind being as much as five inches in length, and of the most splendid form, when on the ground appearing like a large leaf;

belonging to this class is also the animated straw, a strange creature, having all the appearance of a piece of straw placed upon legs.

Beetles with green and golden wings are in great variety, and present an extensive scope for research to the entomologist. Spiders of every form and size are here met with, from the diminutive money spider to the disgustingly large tarantula, a frequent and unwelcome visitor to most of the huts in the bush; the bite of the tarantula is poisonous, but not mortal. Centipedes are often disturbed from their retreats in rotten wood by the heat when placed in the settler's chimney corner; and so also are scorpions of a small size; I never noticed one of these creatures more than two inches in length, and never heard of their inflicting serious injury. Ants of a great size and with formidable means of defence, are both numerous and annoying, giving by their sting a disagreeable notice when the traveller is intruding on their domains. In the month of March, a peculiar kind of fly becomes exceedingly numerous and troublesome; its appearance is not unlike the English gadfly; in its ravenous predilection however for blood, it is far more to be dreaded, neither man nor beast is safe from its attacks. Its sting is not productive of more than a momentary sensation of pain, but from its repeated attacks it is looked upon as an annual pest. This fly settles on any exposed portion of the body and protruding from its mouth a sharp pointed tubular weapon after the manner of the moscheto, it sucks the vital fluid with the rapacity of a vampire. "Anomalous as it may appear, it is an indubitable fact, that this insect is possessed of an internal bag, wherein it secretes a fluid which in flavor and appearance is pure honey." From the favorable climate there is little doubt but that the silkworm would thrive in this country,

and the mulberry is already grown to some extent. Does not this induce some hope that Australia Felix may eventually become a silk-growing and exporting colony, and that advantages would accrue to the mother country?

The vegetable kingdom of the province is found to be very similar to other parts of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, but I cannot avoid commenting on the frequent but unavailing regrets experienced from my ignorance on the important subject of Botany. When it is taken into consideration that a knowledge of this science might by pointing out vegetables having peculiar properties fit for medicine, and showing those plants good for food, add greatly to the wealth of the colony generally by increasing its exports; I cannot too strongly recommend the young and ardent emigrant to endeavour to gain information on this subject, and in fact on all other subjects which are likely to fall under his notice in a new country, such as geology, mineralogy, entomology, conchology, &c., &c., and however trifling his knowledge may be he may rest assured in a country where little attention is paid to these matters of turning it to good account—and the continual exercise of these acquirements will be found effectually to destroy that feeling of monotony incidental on a life in the wilderness. To return to my subject it only remains for me to enumerate the species of trees and shrubs most common in the magnificent woods of Australia Felix, referring the reader for more minute information on this subject to the works of Cunningham, Martin, Dr. Lang, Bunce, and other authors whose greater learning and experience have assisted in developing the long hidden treasures of the Australian forests.

The different species of gum trees *(eucalyptus)* are found in most parts of the country, and their timber is of many

uses to the settlers. They sometimes grow to an immense size—I recollect measuring a fallen tree in the ranges of Coronworrabille, and found it to be one hundred and fifty-six feet in the barrel without a single limb. This was a white gum, so called from the light and silvery appearance of the bark, *(eucalyptus resinifera.)* It is found growing on all descriptions of soil, the foliage of all this class is dark and sombre but exceedingly graceful.

The blackwood, with its thick foliage, has much the appearance of the ilex oak, but arrives at a much larger size. Its timber is used for the finer kinds of bush work and is found a good substitute for mahogany, as well as the red gum, (*angophora lanceolata*) of which wood all the furniture made in the colony is manufactured. This tree is only found growing on good soil and generally in an open country.

Several kinds of wattle, (*mimosa*) are to be seen in the forests, but their wood is useless except for burning. The silver wattle, (*acacia molissima,*) and the black wattle, (*acacia affinis*) are the greatest ornaments of the bush during their flowering season, enlivening the country with their bright yellow blossoms spreading fragrance far and near, and during other seasons of the year their beautiful foliage tends to destroy the dark appearance the forests would otherwise wear from the quantities of *eucalyptus* which abound in them. The black wattle, (*acacia affinis*) yields a gum which would perhaps be found to answer for many purposes as well as gum arabic; it is of an amber colour, and when fresh from the tree has a pleasant taste. It is used as a medicine by bushmen when attacked by dysentery, and is seldom found to fail in producing salutary effects. This gum forms an article of great consumption with the natives, but in consequence of the reckless

manner in which the trees have been stripped of their bark for the purposes of tanning and for exportation, many parts of the country are now quite destitute of this, to them useful and important article of diet, forming as it does, or did, their principal vegetable food.

The stringy bark is a tree which grows to perhaps the greatest size of all the kinds found in Australia; its timber is valuable to the colonists for all kinds of work. Backhouse mentions in his narrative one of these trees two hundred and fifty feet in length and fifty-two and half feet in circumference. In the mountain ranges of Australia Felix, two hundred feet is not an uncommon length for them to arrive at; they generally grow on a light sandy soil. After a bush fire they present a very miserable appearance, as from the inflammable nature of the fibres of the bark which hang down in all directions from the trunk of the tree, the fire is soon communicated to the very top, although it scarcely injures the vegetation, yet the barrel and limbs of the tree are quite black, which together with the dark foliage gives a forest of this timber a desolate and most mournful appearance.

Several descriptions of trees of the same family known by the colonists as oaks, display their pendant foliage in most quarters of the bush. The she oak, probably a corruption of the American, named sheack, is generally found growing on good soil, its leaf consist of one long fibre which droops in a graceful manner, and from its peculiar formation, the wind whistling through a forest of these trees produces a most melancholy sound. The timber of this tree is found very useful to the settlers, and is preferred as fuel by the inhabitants of the towns, wood being always used for such purposes. The swamp oak, he oak, and several other descriptions are of this class.

The tree known by the name of the cherry, *(exocarpus cupressiformis,)* is like the cypress, with a lighter green foliage than most other of the forest trees. It bears a fruit about the size of a yew berry, pleasant to the taste, the stone or seed growing on the outside. The fruit during the proper seasons is the food of pigeons and other birds, and is sometimes used at distant or new stations for tarts, &c. The wood of this tree is only used for burning, the timber never arriving at any great size.

The swamps and low country, and the banks of rivers are overgrown with tea tree, *(leptospermum,)* of which there are several varieties. It is allied to the myrtle family, *(melaleuca.)* The trunks of the larger trees and the wood of the smaller descriptions being generally straight and of a convenient size, are used for building purposes in the bush, and a decoction of the leaves is a fair substitute for tea, yielding a beverage of a very aromatic flavour. I have never met with these trees larger than fourteen inches in diameter, but when a scrub of tea tree is intermixed with the dwarf vine it presents an almost impenetrable barrier to the traveller.

The honey suckle, *(banksia integrifolia,)* will greatly disappoint those who from its name expect to see any thing similar to the sweet scented climbers of English hedges and gardens—this being a tree attaining to thirty or forty feet in height with spiral yellow flowers. The blossoms at the proper season yield a great quantity of honey, which on a dewy morning may be observed dropping from the flowers; the natives have a method of extracting the honey by plucking the blossoms and soaking them in a vessel of water, it forms a good substitute for sugar. The wood is of little use. The specimens of this tree growing in some parts of Gipp's Land are of a larger size than any to be seen

in other parts of Australia Felix, and the flowers are nearly double the usual size.

In the mountains behind Westernport, the sassafras, *(athosperma moschata,)* is reported to grow in a wild state, but I do not recollect seeing any, although I have frequently travelled in different parts of those ranges.

The cedar, *(cedrela toona,)* has been discovered in several quarters of Australia Felix.

Amongst the many other trees not enumerated in the above list, are the box, peppermint, light-wood, button-wood, apple tree, *(augustifolia,)* musk tree, &c., &c.; the last mentioned growing by the banks of creeks in most parts of the mountain ranges, it is a straggling bushy kind of tree, with a leaf in shape like the elm, but four times the size; it is white underneath, and emits a strong musk-like odour.

The kangaroo apple, *(solonum laciniatum,)* is a fine shrub found in many parts of the country, bearing a pretty blue flower and a fruit rather unpleasant to the taste, although frequently eaten by the natives, and also by Europeans.

The grass tree, *(Zanthorrhœa Australis,)* flourishes in sandy land, where scarcely any other vegetable production can find any support; it is rather a picturesque plant with its long flower stem springing out of its crown of fibrous leaves. A resinous kind of gum exudes from the stalk of this plant, used by the natives for many purposes.

The tree fern, *(cybotium billardieri,)* is one of the most beautiful plants to be met with in New Holland; it flourishes at the bottom of the valleys in the mountains, and forms the most attractive feature in the mountain scenery of Australia; the pulp of the stem immediately underneath the crown of leaves, is sometimes used by the natives as food, and is eaten either raw, or roasted in the ashes; it has

a taste something like a very tough turnip, and is never eaten in great quantities at a time on account of its indigestible properties.

The indigo plant, with its blue pea-like blossoms, is to be found all over the bush. *(Australis Indigofera.)*

Many of the plants and shrubs found growing on the shores of the bays and salt creeks, are included under the general name mangrove. The true mangrove, *(avicennia tomentosa,)* is a laurel-like bush very plentiful wherever there is mud and salt water enough to encourage its growth. The whole of the shores of the bay of Westernport abounds with shrubs of this description.

The myrtle, *(fagus cunninghamii,)* grows all over French Island, and is also found on many parts of the main land, where this beautiful shrub with its white blossoms and fragrant scent spreads over acres of land.

The gigantic vine, *(cissus antarctica,)* is a production only to be seen growing in its greatest luxuriance in the moist mountain ranges, where it spreads its snake-like arms far and wide, knitting the timber together and forming an impenetrable barrier to the traveller's progress. Some of the stems of this kind of vine although not above an inch in circumference, defy the whole strength of a man to break them. The only chance he has is to cut his way through, and this where the stuff to be operated on is so pliant as to give before the strokes of the tomahawke or axe is a very laborious work.

A traveller in the forests of Australia cannot but observe the great number of parasitical plants hanging over him in great variety. Many of these are very beautiful, and are seen chiefly attached to the different species of *eucalyptus.*

Flowers of every form and hue springing wild and in profusion amidst its verdant pastures, adorn the ever-varying scenery of this beautiful land—

"The wild flower laying
Its fairy gem beside the giant tree."

Endless varieties blooming at all seasons and charming the eye with their beauty, proclaim a perpetual spring, and would amply repay the enterprising botanist for the inconvenience of a voyage out if it were only to record their variety and beauty. For him the wilderness teems with instruction and pleasure, and where the stranger to this science would see only a barren piece of country, he would discover plants valuable in their kind and peculiarly splendid in their construction. He would be amply repaid for his time and trouble by the new varieties of plants he would have the opportunity of bringing home with him. Most of the flowers which I have noticed were of a small size, many of them having bulbous roots. So careless are the generality of the colonists to the treasures nature has displayed to them, that very few of the most beautiful productions of the wilderness have received English names. But there is one little flower dear to the memory of every emigrant, calling up visions of dear old England, and more likely to make a lasting impression on his mind than many of far higher pretensions. The little daisy may here be seen interspersed with foreign beauties, appealing strongly to the eye and the heart of those who have not been absent from Britain so long as to forget its green meadows and its "gowan's fine."*

The common mushroom and several other kinds of fungi are plentiful in the woods at certain seasons of the year, and are made use of by the natives, and also by Europeans for food. The flavour of the mushroom is in no wise inferior to the British variety, and grows to a much larger size.

* Richard Howitt, the emigrant poet, celebrated his meeting with one of these flowers in the bush of Australia Felix by verses published in the Port Philip Magazine, of February, 1843. This gentleman has since returned to England, and has written a work "Impressions of Australia Felix," derogatory to the colony, but which should nevertheless be read by intending emigrants.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

THE subjects treated of in this chapter, should be of peculiar interest to those who intend emigration and are about occupying the lands of the aborigines, and also to the general reader, whether he regard the numbers, qualities of mind, habits, adaptation for civilization, or the future destiny of a class of people who it is to be feared are fast diminishing before the white man's progress. It will be appropriate to this portion of my subject to enquire how far the protectorate department have fulfilled their duties, and with what success in their attempts to improve and civilize the native inhabitants of this province, and if after allowing that the officers composing this experimental corps have done their best, whether the condition of the natives has been improved or ameliorated, or if they are not now further removed from civilization and nearer to utter destruction than before the establishment of this branch of colonial government.

I will preface any further remarks by an account of the numbers of the several tribes, and the extent of country occupied by each.

"1. Geelong, or Western District, embracing the whole of the country, bounded on the south by the coast running from Indented Head to the Glenelg, or boundary of the South Australian Province; on the north by a line running from a point twenty miles north of Melbourne to "Nurni-yong" the Mount Blackwood of Mitchell, thence to Mount Cole, Mount William and the Glenelg; the west bounded by the South Australian Province. This district contains about eight hundred native inhabitants, in ten or twelve separate tribes.

"2. Mount Macedon, or North Western District, is bounded on the south by the District of Geelong; on the west by the boundary of the South Australian Province; on the east by a line running north from Tarerewait, or Mount Macedon; the northern line undefined; number of native inhabitants about five hundred.

"3. Goulburn River District, bounded on the south by the Australian Alps; on the west by the boundary of the Mount Macedon district; northern and eastern boundaries undefined; it contains about eight hundred natives, in four or five tribes.

"4. Westernport, or Melbourne District, bounded on the south by the coast from point Nepeau eastward; on the north by the Australian Alps; on the west by the bay of Port Philip; and includes Gipp's Land to the east; contains about one thousand inhabitants, in seven or eight tribes."

Each of these districts has a protector, who has formed a homestead intended to serve as a centre of operation in his district, and as an asylum for such of the aboriginal inhabitants as are disposed to settle.* "Agricultural

* This quotation from Arden will give some idea of the intentions of government in forming the aboriginal stations.

operations are to be carried on at these stations for the exclusive benefit and advantage of the natives; those who are able are expected to give an equivalent for what they receive, the sick, aged, and young children are to be rationed."

"A dray with six working oxen, a plough, harrow, spades, and other requisites, have been furnished for the use of the agricultural establishment, likewise two government men. These supplies are distinct from the assistant protector's travelling equipment, which consists of a cart, two men, tents, &c.

"These establishments are not in any way to interfere with the itinerating duties of the assistant protectors, but on the contrary, render their services in this respect more efficient; they are to travel among and sojourn with the native tribes, and by every possible means in their power to endeavour to induce them to a settled mode of existence. A missionary is to be appointed to each establishment, and a free overseer to superintend the agricultural operations, a free constable also to aid the assistant protectors in the discharge of their magisterial functions. In the preceding arrangements there is nothing new, they were originally intended by the government, and advertised in the Secretary of State's Despatch, and were to be entered upon as soon as the assistant protectors were in a fit position to act, and qualified to recommend suitable localities; it was with this view, and to carry out these designs, that the chief protector addressed an instruction to each of his assistants, in April, 1839, calling upon them to furnish certain statistical and other information connected with the native tribes of their respective Districts. The chief protector receives a salary of five hundred pounds per annum. Each of the four assistant protectors, two

hundred and fifty pounds per annum, with an allowance of ten shillings and sixpence per diem, as commutation for forage and rations. The duty of the chief is to survey and direct the practical operations of subordinates, the theory of the system being supplied partly by the wisdom of an absent minister, amidst the clamours of warm but mistaken enthusiasts in Great Britain, and partly by the enactments of the colonial government. The functions of the sub-protectors combine the magisterial with the ministerial and educational. The officers selected as the heads of this department are married men with families, in order that their children and themselves may by their example strengthen their connexion with the natives, and lighten their own labours." But with all the good examples set them, murder, treachery, abduction, and many other equally horrible crimes are as rife amongst the several tribes as ever. The protectorate department has now had a fair trial —the homesteads have proved a failure—and the great and unnecessary expenditure of money, has induced every colonist, but those whose direct interest lies in upholding the protectors, to declare them as worse than useless. Instead of endeavouring to produce a kindly feeling between the blacks and their white brethren, what have they done? "It is their custom in conversing with the blacks, to exalt their relative situations as their protectors, by a disparagement of the white population, who are represented to them as men whose actions had inflicted incalculable injuries on the natives, and whose desire was to accomplish their extermination; the mutual distrust and jealousy thus excited was increased on the one hand by the cool reception given to any officer of the department on his tour through the country; on the other by the espionage established over the servants of the settlers. When to such inauspicious

commencements are added the total unfitness of the gentlemen, themselves to meet the privations of the bush, the constant demand for activity, the urgency of acquiring the native language; aggravated as these impediments were by anxiety on account of their families, it is not to be wondered at that the scheme should have proved unsuccessful." Only those blacks who were incapacitated by illness or wounds to rove about the bush could ever be induced to remain for any time on the homesteads. How could they be expected when the small quantities of food meted out to them was insufficient for their daily wants? The remainder of the tribe prefer hunting for a living, or begging at the settler's stations, to leading an irksome life of inactivity. The settler thus in an indirect way pays for their support twice over; rates are levied for the protector's sinecure, and there are few who do not give as much again to the natives in charity. This does not look like oppression on the part of the whites. No, if the protectorate department had never been formed, many of the natives by this time would have been in the settler's employ, but as it is, there is a stronger line drawn between them than ever. "If the aborigines are to be improved, education, to be sure, will do it—that is all that is wanted. But the education must be commenced by a missionary, and this missionary must undergo a certain series of scholastic studies to be fitted for his duty." Now let us look a little at the usual mode of proceeding;—to civilize the heathen, thousands with the purest zeal contribute their schemes, but the little success resulting from them all, has furnished the means of triumph to the infidel and deist, occasioned luke-warmness in many who at first were ardent in the cause, and led to a conclusion either that the subjects of such philanthrophy are incapable of receiving its benefits,

that the Almighty has decreed that the time is not yet come for their condition to be ameliorated; or that such attempts are made merely for interested and sinister ends. I appeal to all who have had an opportunity of knowing the general character of missionaries. As long as men are engaged under whatever system it may be, whose education and ideas of human nature are as limited as are those of the present body of protectors, so long will failure and mortification be the result, until in the course of a few more years, there will be no natives left for them to experimentalize upon.

The following remarks made by Buchanan in his work on the Red Indians, are as applicable to the New Hollanders. "They are fond of hunting and fishing, of ornaments, and of dress. Upon these desires I would found a plan. I would have them instructed in agriculture, and thus by degrees wean them from their love of the chase, and point out to them a new mode of life that would afford them more certainty in the supply of food. These people are by no means insensible to the advantages they derive from having a sufficiency of food, and new wants have sprung up amongst those in the settled districts which require satisfying. I would give them land, and assist them in its cultivation, would build houses to belong to them and their tribe for ever, and whilst these improvements were in progress, I would supply them with a sufficiency of food until the return of the crops, not demanding any thing in return but a little labor, for what else could they give except skins, and in procuring these they would still be obliged to follow their old habits, which the great object of any plan ought to be to break them of.

By these means they would abandon their migratory life, an important point to be gained, and by degrees religious

instruction might now be afforded them. Let us at once begin by teaching them the simple art of life and the benefits of civilization, then endeavour to shew them the great advantages they would enjoy by the blessings and privileges of the Christian religion, and in the room of having the bible and its mysteries thrust upon their untutored minds, they would be in a more prepared state for receiving its moral lessons. No coersary measures should be used to make them attend divine service, or any penalty exacted from them for non-attendance. Sunday should nevertheless be kept as a sabbath by all as far as cessation from worldly labor is concerned. The establishment should be under the superintendance of a man of discretion, divested of gloomy habits and those false views that connect austerity of manners with the essentials of christianity. He should make allowance for the prejudices and passions of those under his charge that he might the better give them a just direction, and especially in the commencement of his authority, he should deal tenderly with offences, redoubling his care with regard to the delinquent. He should possess the great qualification of humility, and instead of arrogance and pride, should enter on his duties with the determination of being and acting as a servant to the heathen."

Few men can resist the temptations of power when within reach, and I had proofs before me when in the province of Australia Felix too abundant, that the protectors were generally speaking haughty and tyrannical amongst the aborigines, I am sorry to say it, but the chief protector in particular. Mr. William Thomas, the only one of the sub-protectors, I am personally acquainted with is an honourable exception. I contend that the natives of this province have not had a fair trial; that the men appointed to fulfil the principal duties were incompetent from their pre-

vious habits and want of education to do so, and that if the protectorate were to be carried on under a system something similar in spirit to what I have proposed, there would be more probability of success. The protectorate can only be regarded in the light of a Christian mission, and as such is entitled to every consideration; but alas, that this simple fact does not render it infallible. I indeed feel jealous that no one should believe me an enemy to missions generally, but I am very sure that when a protector is so disposed, he has it in his power to do much injury; and I am not aware that I can evince my opinions on the matter in any way better than by quoting the following from Dr. Lang's letters on New Zealand—

"It is extremely hazardous for any man who has the least regard for his own reputation in this country to say a single word to the discredit of missionaries to the heathen either individually or collectively; for the man who does so whatever be his standing or profession, is instantly set down as an enemy to missions altogether, and his testimony is forthwith got rid of accordingly. In fact the task of telling the plain truth respecting missionaries to the heathen, if that truth is in any way disparaging, is as invidious in regard to its bearings on the truth-teller in the eye of the religious public as that of the parliamentary impeachment of a minister of state. It is thus, however, that the grossest abuses are perpetuated, and that Christianity is wounded as it always is the most deeply in the house of its friends."

The protectors cannot affirm with any truth that the blacks are incapable of instruction; they have seen too many proofs to the contrary. The Wesleyan mission which was in operation before their establishment has been more useful to the aborigines and must afford greater satisfaction to the consciences of those engaged in it, who for the

trifling annuity of £40 are doing their best to civilize and instruct the heathen, whilst the protectors, the chief with a salary of £500, and his four subordinates with £250 per annum, must well know the uselessness and inefficiency of their offices. Seven years have elapsed since the present system has been pursued, and what is the result? The blacks have been declared British subjects and are amenable to British laws, which those amongst them nearest civilization have but a very limited idea of. This much they have learnt from sad experience; that for the murder of a man they are hanged, and for theft they are imprisoned or transported. What knowledge do they possess of a moral law, supposed to have been inculcated by their protectors for seven years? Nothing whatever. Ask a black man why he does not kill or steal, and he will tell you because he fears hanging. Nothing but the dread of punishment in this world prevents them from indulging in the desires of their still savage nature which frequently shews itself when opportunity and a feeling of security favours them. Before I dismiss this subject I would wish to shew that the appointment of Mr. G. A. Robinson at the head of the protectorate establishment was injudicious, and that he was in no way qualified to fill it. He was raised from a low station in colonial society to this important office in consequence of his success in inducing the natives of Van Diemen's Land to accompany him to Flinder's Island. With some convicts or government men, as they are there called, he penetrated into the haunts of the natives whither they had retired from the persecutions of their more savage white brethren, and succeeded by his representations in inducing them to march with him into Hobarton, whence they were shipped off to Flinder's Island. The number of blacks was but small; persecution and the shocking

cruelties perpetrated by the bush rangers, some of whom confessed having shot them as food for their dogs, had thinned their numbers and broken their spirit. Impelled by necessity and hunger, hunted and treated like wild beasts, they were but too glad to leave their own country for a land where they were told they would be free from these persecutions, and Mr. Robinson for a sum of money made an attempt under the authority of government to collect them together, which was successful. That he was of benefit to the European inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land there can be little doubt, for revenge was the ruling passion of the natives, and every opportunity which offered for the slaughter of a white man, was eagerly embraced by them; and could it be wondered at after the manner in which they had been treated? The fact of Mr. Robinson's success in this instance, was unfortunately considered sufficient qualification for his holding the office he at present does. Every reader must at once perceive that although an uneducated man might by certain representations induce a few tribes of savages to accompany him to another country, still that the same individual might be quite unfitted for treating with a class whose intercourse with Europeans has been conducted on quite a different footing from the poor Van Diemen's Land natives, and whose language, manners, and customs were very dissimilar. Whether the colonial government did right in putting such power into his hands can be best answered by the universal failure which has attended all his exertions —the legislative council of Sydney had in 1844 decided that great alterations should take place in the protectorate department, and a motion was about being made to abolish it altogether, proving that they have not much faith in its usefulness.

I think the strongest proof I can adduce of Robinson's incompetency to correctly instruct those put under his charge, may be found in the fate of two Van Diemen's Land blacks who had been living with him for some years, and had accompanied him from Flinder's Island to Port Philip. For some reason, not elicited, during their trial for murder, they left Mr. Robinson's cottage on the Yarra and proceeded to Westernport, there commenced a system of robbery and murder, which ended in their both being hanged at Melbourne in 1842. All their other black countrymen who were in Mr. Robinson's household, were, by a wise order of the government, transferred to Flinder's Island; if this had not been done, the Port Philip natives would likely have been polluted by those who had been brought to instruct them in the arts of civilized life; so much for the great wisdom of the chief protector. He and his subordinates were expected to enquire into the condition and the numbers in the several tribes inhabiting Australia Felix. Many of these tribes speaking different languages are almost unknown to them—their language quite so. How then are they to instruct or protect, even allowing them to be otherwise competent?

One of the customs prevalent amongst all the tribes of the province is to destroy a number of enemies for every death which occurs amongst their own members. In 1843, the doctor, a great man in the Woeworong tribe died, and his relatives and friends after going through certain ceremonies set off to the number of twenty-five armed men for Gipp's Land to revenge his death. Many of these warriors had with them double barrel guns and rifles, and there remained no doubt of their intentions. Now these men were under the protection of W. Thomas, Esq., perhaps the most efficient officer of the

whole department. News was taken to him at his station at Nerree Nerree Warren, of the intentions of the blacks, and he arrived in Westernport shortly afterwards in time to find his sable friends returning from the slaughter of nine men belonging to the Berber and Tandil tribes. He would not let it be considered that he believed the settlers accounts of their having seen portions of human flesh in their possession. It would not have been his interest to do so, and so the affair was not enquired further into; but one of the head men of the expedition informed me of the whole matter, and showed me some fat which he had extracted from the belly of a man killed there by his own hand; he gave me several revolting particulars of the massacre, and described the several actions of these people whilst they were being slaughtered, which left but a poor impression on my mind of the humanizing effect of the particular description of Christianity they had been instructed in. I was greatly interested in one of my excursions with one of the blacks who accompanied me, giving a description of a "yabber," or discourse his protector had treated him and his people with on the Sunday previous; his action all the time he was delivering it was most ludicrous, and a certain nasal twang showed that very little had passed unnoticed by him. He proceeded to say that after Mr. —— had talked with the Great Father about something, he did not know what, he commenced a sermon in the following words.—"My black fellows are very good—(this occurred shortly after the massacre mentioned above)—the Goulburn and other tribes are not good, they have killed white men, and they will all be hanged—my black fellows can go to Melbourne and procure bread, tea, sugar, and tobacco of the white people, and not be afraid—they are very good," and such stuff as this is I believe the substance

of all their moral instruction. As a natural consequence of an education of this description, their ideas of Christianity are false and ridiculous. On my showing one of these children of nature an engraving of the infant Jesus, he declared "such a fellow was no good—he was weak and small, and could not protect them—no good little Jesus, very good the old man," meaning the Great Spirit; and the native who made this remark was one who had engaged the particular attention of his protector.

I think I need say no more to show the utter uselessness of this department as it exists at present in this province, or to induce those whose inclination would lead them to do good to all without regard to colour, to enquire further into this most important subject, and to render some real assistance to a class of people low indeed in the scale of humanity, but who are not found to be deficient in many of the virtues which adorn a more advanced period of civilization.

And here I may with propriety insert an account of the remnant of the whole of the remaining aboriginal natives of the island of Van Diemen's Land, by an extract from the journal of my worthy friend Mr. George White, a merchant of Melbourne—"June 26th, 1844, arrived at the settlement on Flinder's Island in Bass's Straits." (This settlement was formed for the purpose of attempting to civilize the Van Diemen's Land natives who were sent here two hundred in number, in the year 1834, since which period twenty more have been brought here.) "Visited the blacks and found every thing clean and comfortable; they were lodged in neat white-washed huts, each containing one room with a fire-place and bedstead. In front of the cottages are the church and jail, neither of which present any architectural beauties. There are also other comfortable buildings for

the cockswain, catechist, and the *army*, consisting of one serjeant and two privates. Some ground has been cleared, and gardens made capable of supplying the settlement with vegetables, &c.; but the land about the settlement is generally poor, and the water used is brackish and unwholesome. The total number of inhabitants at present is eighty, namely, fifty-seven Van Diemen's Land blacks and twenty-three whites; so that in ten years there has been a decrease of one hundred and sixty-three on a total of two hundred and twenty, or an average of sixteen three-tenths per annum. The greatest amount of deaths was on its first establishment, and this is accounted for by the sudden change in habits of life and diet, the Van Diemen's Land government at that time only supplying them with salt beef and flour. There have been eleven superintendants in the course of ten years. The births have been very few, I only saw four children, two of them half casts, and it is evident a very few years will see the extinction of the race. They sing psalms, play at marbles, beg tobacco of visitors, and smoke as long as their supply lasts. Almost every night a corobbery is held which is a kind of dramatic dance." "This strange wild dance of the aborigines of all parts of New Holland as well as of Van Diemen's Land, is alike used on mystic, festive, and martial occasions. It is usually celebrated in the night by the light of large fires which produce a highly wild and picturesque effect."

The following notices of a few of the peculiarities appertaining to the natives of Australia Felix, anecdotes, &c., are drawn from notes made by the author during hasty journeys through the bush.

It is generally considered that the native inhabitants of Port Philip are by far the finest race of men yet discovered on the continent of New Holland, far exceeding the Van

Diemen's Land and Sydney natives in comeliness of appearance, and also in the manufacture of their weapons, and in the simple arts existing amongst them. The women make excellent baskets of a coarse grass, necklaces from hollow reeds cut into short lengths, and the men form water-pots of the excrescences of the trees, which they cut off and hollow out with great labor and perseverance. "They are at times tractable, generous, and peaceable, showing an aptitude for acquiring knowledge truly surprising, capital imitators and witty, but with all these good qualities, there are those restless, treacherous, and vindictive feelings which stamp man as a savage to whatever country he belongs, and which it is to be feared will never be eradicated under their present management." They are of a dark brown colour, and very dirty in their habits, but there are instances of the youth of either sex being both comely and cleanly in their appearance. The old women are withered and decrepid, presenting a disgusting appearance, closely resembling an ouran-outang —it is impossible to conclude with any certainty as to their age, but judging from appearances, I imagine many in their wild state, and uncontaminated by the white man's vices, arrive at the usual age allotted to man, but those tribes nearest civilization are dwindling fast away. The Douttagalla tribe has now only one member left out of a goodly number which formed it when the white people came.

The general form of government appears to be that of chieftainship, obtained by individual bravery, but the chief is generally guided by the elder warriors. When a council is held, the warriors all seat themselves in a circle, and conduct the proceedings with attention and decorum. Some laws exist for regulating the actions of younger men

in their relation to the elders of the tribe, the flesh of the emu and kangaroo being prohibited to the former, and marriage interdicted until the performance of a certain ceremony which takes place about the age of thirteen. Their ideas of religion are very limited, and their belief of a future state is, that after death they will *jump up white men.* They believe in a "great Father," and in an evil spirit, the latter of which they fear exceedingly. The blacks have some crude notions of a judicial government, as their punishments for certain offences testify, for if a man kill his wife, accidentally or otherwise, he is exposed to the tortures of spearing, with only a small shield to ward off the blows inflicted in rotation by each member of his tribe; if a person kill a dog, the owner of the animal is allowed to give him three blows on the head with a waddy, at discretion either hard or soft, but should he kill the offender during the punishment, he would render himself amenable to the first mentioned law. The men puncture themselves at a certain age, and raise large lumps of flesh as long and large as a man's finger; the women also tattoo themselves about the breast and arms. On particular occasions they paint and adorn their head with emu or cockatoo feathers; they have no instrument of music, the corobbery song's being accompanied by the beating of two sticks together, and by the women thumping their opossum rugs. Their only dress consists of rugs made either from the opossum or kangaroo skin, a small bandage round the head, and a quantity of string made from opossum hair twisted, which is wound around the neck in a great number of folds. The women wear a belt of emu feathers to hide the person, and the men a wallaby skin cut into a number of narrow slips for the same purpose. The Goulburn, and some other tribes, knock out the front

teeth on attaining to a certain age, but this is not a universal custom, for neither the Bournarongs or Woeworongs are found to do this. That the blacks are not deficient in cunning, the following anecdote will testify.—In the early days of Melbourne, when labor was scarce, a settler on the Yarra, about four miles from town, desired a black who was camping near his hut, to procure a few of his friends, and to carry to his house in town a number of fowls, telling him he would give them a loaf each when they had done so. After looking out some time for their arrival, what was his surprise to see a great number of blacks march up to his door, each bearing a single fowl, but he was much more astonished when each demanded a loaf for fulfilling his share of the contract.

That they are not the blood-thirsty savages which some, and indeed, nearly all writers represent them to be; their treatment of a white man called Buckley, who was found with them on the settling of Port Philip, and who had lived with them for thirty years, is a strong proof. This man had escaped from a party who had endeavoured to settle in Port Philip under Lieutenant-governor Collins, thirty years subsequently; from his dress and habits, when first seen by his countryman, he was taken for a native; in his youth Buckley had deserted the expedition to which he was attached, and had grown up to the age of manhood, living on amicable terms with his sable friends to the hour in which he was so singularly restored to civilized society; he had forgotten his own language, but soon recovered it again, and to him the early colonists are mainly indebted for the foundation of a settlement on such easy and peaceful terms; this man now holds the situation of a petty constable in Van Diemen's Land.

Superstition reigns triumphant amongst all savages, and

the natives of Australia Felix are no exception to the general rule. When an eclipse takes place, they imagine it portends a great destruction of their tribe, and should any of their number be absent at the time, they mourn for them as if they were already dead. They consider it unfortunate to skin some animals, believing it will bring bad weather. They will not walk about after dark if they can avoid it, and when they do they always carry a fire-stick—the Gipp's Land blacks are an exception, for nearly all their depredations take place in the night.

"It would be difficult to arrive at any safe conclusion with regard to their language, as to whether it approaches any known tongue, for the dialects are as numerous as the tribes themselves, the difference between many being so great as to warrant their being considered as separate and distinct. Every dialect abounds with vowels and liquids —the sound being soft and labial."*

It was for some time a matter of doubt whether these people were cannibals, but in consequence of a number of facts which have come under my observation, I am sorry to say, no doubt remains but that they are so. On several occasions I have seen human flesh in their possession, and have been told by them without much scruple that they always make a point of eating certain portions of their enemies killed in battle or by treachery, under a feeling of revenge. When two tribes are about having a fair open fight, the head men of each challenge the others in nearly these words—"Let us fight, we are not afraid, my warriors will kill you all, and eat you up." The part of the human body valued by them most is the kidney fat, to which they attribute supernatural powers and think it acts as a charm in many cases.

* I have inserted in the Appendix a short Vocabulary of native words.

When going hunting, they say some black fellow's fat rubbed over the soles of their feet will prevent the kangaroo and other game from hearing them walk in the bush, and there are scarcely any who have not some portion of it in their bags which is kept as carefully out of the sight of strangers as possible. The disgusting and cruel act of cutting out the fat is very often performed when life is still lingering in the victims; several instances have occurred where they have been found alive several hours after having suffered from this horrid deed.

It cannot be said they are a war-like people, as nearly all their enemies are killed by treachery, and scarcely ever in a fair and open fight. The usual plan of operation after they have determined on making war upon a tribe is as follows: scouts are sent out in the direction of the enemies' country, and as soon as marks of natives are discovered the warriors all proceed stealthily along examining every mark with the greatest attention, a blade of crushed grass, or a leaf, or twig broken, is sufficient to point out to the experienced the direction in which to fall in with the foe. The tracks having been discovered and the time at which they were made, for the native is able to judge by their appearance the period which has elapsed since the passing of the enemy and also of their number, all their future operations are guided by this. If several days have passed they push on still keeping on the trail, travelling in a line and treading as much as possible in each others footsteps. In this manner they proceed noiselessly on their road until the fresh tracks announce that they are approaching the enemy. Every care is now taken to prevent a knowledge of their proximity. No fires are lighted lest the smoke should attract attention, and scarcely a word is spoken but in a whisper. At length, after journeying a day or two, smoke

On Stone by H.r Hainſelin.

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is observed, a halt is immediately made, and a council held. The position of the smoke is well defined, for towards evening on the return of the blacks from hunting it rises up in volumes, leaving no doubt of the spot whence it springs. As it gets darker a stealthy approach is made towards the camp until even the number of the fires can be determined. Weapons are now made ready; if guns or rifles are amongst the party, the priming is looked to and fresh caps fitted, but not a move is made until about an hour before day-break, when the whole party of warriors crawl carefully along the ground on their bellies in their motion very much resembling that of the snake, and endeavour as they approach to spread themselves so as to encompass the whole camp. This done they rest like the tiger in his lair until day-light points out to them the most advantageous mode of proceeding. Should one of them get up and look about him it is a signal to commence the slaughter immediately, and each warrior having previously selected his man, makes the attack, the confusion of fear seizes the camp, and an attempt is made by all to hide in the neighbouring woods, but every hollow stump and every tuft of grass is occupied by an enemy thirsting for blood and spreading death wherever he can. The contest generally occupies but a few minutes, and the unfortunate wounded, who are still perhaps alive, are assailed with blows and spears. Revenge, the prevailing passion, originating often in some imaginary offence never committed by the sufferers, now drinks her fill; the dead bodies are savagely lacerated and the kidney fat torn out, large slices of flesh are cut from the legs, and every conceivable indignity offered to bodies so lately tabernacles of living souls. In an affray of this description few are spared, young and old, the very infant and its mother, fall a common prey to the fiendish fury of the victors.

Portions of their flesh are roasted and eaten on the spot, and the remainder of the mangled bodies are left as food for carrion crows, eagles, &c.

Occasionally a few young women are taken and appropriated by the head warriors to themselves for wives, but if an attempt is made by them to escape, they are immediately slaughtered without mercy. This I grieve to say is a true picture of a black massacre, only rendered more deadly than formerly by the introduction of fire-arms among many tribes, guns are bad enough in the hands of men who have been taught from their youth that mercy is the noblest feeling in the warrior, and who employ them under its influence, but where used by a savage who glories more in the destruction of a foe than the preservation of a friend, they are deadly weapons indeed.

On the return of such a party as I have described from one of these attacks, to the remaining part of their tribe, (the women, very old men, and young children never accompanying a war party,) those of the number who for the first time have been in action, decked with garlands of gum leaves are led into the tribe and held up as noble examples to the youngsters worthy of imitation. A great corobbery is held, and then the injury on their part is supposed to be wiped out and only awaits the death of one of their tribe for the same events as I have endeavoured to pourtray to occur again.

The notions of these people concerning death is most peculiar—they have no idea of a person dying in the common course of nature, but attribute it to the machinations of some enemy, who by singing and going through many ridiculous ceremonies, such as tying up pieces of cord in knots is the occasion of the disease under which they may be suffering. " The doctor of a tribe is generally

speaking a personage of much importance, who by a slight knowledge of a few herbs useful in some diseases, and well versed in the natural superstition of savages, is looked up to with awe and respect." When actual applications fail to alleviate the pain of a sick man, the doctor presses his mouth against the stomach of the patient, and attempts to drive the disease away by singing a charm; both these endeavours failing, nothing more can be done, and nature is left to herself. Should death be the consequence, the female relations and friends of the deceased tear their hair, scratch themselves, cut their heads with tomahawks, and evince every indication of excessive grief, whilst the men paint themselves with white clay which constitutes the mourning. If the person diseased is a man, the old men and warriors seat themselves in a circle around him, and scarcely speak, each keeping his eyes on the ground, but occasionally casting a furtive glance at his dying friend —they will sometimes stop in this position for several hours. In one instance, on arriving at a camp of natives I was informed a member of the tribe was very ill. I had no difficulty in discovering the poor fellow's weelem or hut, by the old men who had congregated about it; on my approach only a few words were spoken. The sick man was stretched out on his back, and appeared gasping for breath—the hand of death pressed heavily upon him—I was concerned to find in him an old friend who had often accompanied me on shooting excursions. He looked up at me, on one of his wives saying something to him, and held out his hand, I took it in my own, which he grasped with all that peculiar energy consequent on being in great pain—he could scarcely articulate except in broken sentences. I asked him where was the seat of his sufferings? He told me in his loins, and said "that some wild black fellow had put a hot clay brick inside him,

which was burning him and melting his fat." Had this not been a most solemn occasion, I could not have avoided laughing in his face, but I endeavoured to comfort him by telling him he might yet recover, although I had little hope, for from his description I imagined he was suffering from inflammation of the kidneys. It was a warm evening, and he was perfectly naked, presenting a most humiliating sight; every muscle appeared stretched to its greatest tension, his eyes presently became fixed, and after a severe struggle and a few deep sighs, the soul of one of the greatest warriors in the Woeworong tribe departed into the world of spirits. This occurred late in the evening, and on proceeding to the spot on the ensuing morning, I found a circular trench had been dug around where the hut stood, about three inches in depth, and the weelem itself had been set on fire; the other members of the tribe were painted with pipe clay, and were preparing to depart for another camping ground, as they make a point of never stopping at a place after a death has occurred there—I enquired what they had done with the dead body, and one of them accompanied me a short distance, and pointed out a spot rudely fenced in with logs, they had adopted this plan because as he was buried near a town, cattle and other things should not tread upon the grave. When at a distance from the dwellings of white men, they conduct a burial in the following manner:—a grave is dug by means of pointed sticks, about four feet in depth, and just wide enough for the body—the hole is made generally due east and west. The body, before the limbs get rigid, is made up into as small a compass as possible, by pressing the head between the knees, the arms being left outside, and fastened under the legs. It is then wrapped up in an opossum cloak or blanket, and a little food is laid by the side, when it is lowered into the grave, the face always

being towards the east; if a man, his tomahawk, and other weapons are placed in the grave with him, he is then covered with bark, and the earth is again thrown in, his companions sitting around and recounting his virtues and feats of arms; a circular mound is raised above the grave, and a spear is stuck in just above the head. Marks are cut in the bark of the trees near, a large fire is lighted at the foot of the grave, which is usually kept burning for a day or two, and the whole camp resounds with mourning and lamentation.

The means used to discover the blacks who they suppose were the occasion of the death, (for every death that occurs is imagined to have been brought about through the witchcraft of some other tribe,) are as follows:—A hole is dug in the earth near the spot where the person may have died, and on coming to a worm hole or any other cavity underneath the surface it is traced to its end, and in whatever direction it may tend is a sign to the simple blacks, which determines in what quarter they are to look for those who have been the occasion of the death of their brother. A party is immediately dispatched in the direction indicated, and it is considered a mark of cowardice to return without bringing back a piece of the kidney fat of a murdered man as a trophy. This custom has doubtless had the effect of making the aboriginal population so scanty as it is, for the tribes are always at variance and there are generally so many deaths to revenge that they may be considered as eternally at war, and always ready to take any advantage of their adversaries.

It is customary with some of the distant tribes when young children die to burn them. I have heard instances of native women destroying their female children with their own hands shortly after birth. I am at a loss to conceive

why this is done excepting from their inability to provide for the little creatures, which is often the case during a dearth of food for themselves and the consequent failure of nature's food for the child. Looking at it in this light they consider it perhaps more merciful to destroy life at once than see it linger for a few weeks in a hopeless state of low starvation, for should the mother's milk fail where are they to look for food fit for an infant? That their feelings for their children when grown up are most laudable, no one who has seen these people will deny, so that I imagine nothing but sheer necessity would induce them to destroy them in their infancy. I have noticed these poor enduring creatures, the native women, (for they are here as among all savage races their husband's slaves,) toiling on a burning hot day through the bush, laden with a heterogeneous assemblage of pots, blankets, rugs, bags containing charms, &c., skins, baskets, and perhaps mounted on all these articles will be a child from three days to six years old, and this is not for a walk of an hour but probably for the whole day. Should any of the dogs through weakness, (and there are always a number accompanying a tribe,) be unable to proceed, the unfortunate women are expected to carry them too, so that by the end of their journey with the addition of these, and food such as opossums, gum, &c., which they may procure on the road, they have often a burden to carry which a strong man would scarcely endure for such a length of time without practice; but with all this they never desert their children; as soon as they are able to walk the mothers endeavour to induce them to look out for their own food and instruct them in the art and mystery of cutting out grubs from the trees, the proper roots fit for food, and never think of leaving them for any length of time until well able to provide for themselves.

At about the age of thirteen, the boys pass through a ceremony, previous to being admitted into free communion with the young men of the tribe. The hair is cut off close to the head, which is then plastered over with mud about half an inch in thickness, the body is painted in a most grotesque manner, and he is for the time being a licensed personage to play all kinds of tricks without any fear of consequences. In truth, for about a week, the period this ceremony lasts, he is the Tom fool of the tribe, it appears to be a symbol of throwing off the follies and feelings of the youth, and entering into the state of manhood, as after this is over he is expected to be attentive to the instructions of the old men. There is another instance of the ignominy their women are subject to, in the manner a young man procures his wife, when he has determined on taking this step, he usually visits a neighbouring tribe, and having seen a woman whose sable charms overcome him, he first asks her to run away with him, if she refuse when opportunity favours, he inflicts a blow on her head with a heavy waddy or club which stuns her, and then carries her off to his own home, where she spends a life of drudgery and misery, in doing all the hardest of the necessary work, such as fetching wood and water, for which services she is usually rewarded with the part of any food which the husband cannot gormandize; and should she attempt to escape and be discovered, the probability is that she would be speared or beaten to death for her pains. When two strange tribes on amicable terms visit each other, the women always hold their rugs before them, when any of the young men not of their own tribe are passing, and exhibit just as much coquetry as is noticeable in more refined communities. The chief occupation of the women during the day is in

digging roots, and procuring gum, in which they are often surprised by the young men, and taken away by force. This generally leads to a fight between the two parties, and bloodshed is almost certain to be the result.

Whilst I was engaged one day in making a sketch of a black, he evinced great fear, being anxious to know what I intended doing with the drawing; he told me if any of the Goulburn tribe got hold of it, it would be the means of his death, for that they would sing to the picture and so make him ill and kill him. I endeavoured to convince him of the folly of such a belief, but to no purpose, as a proof, he told me he had himself killed others that way. This argument was unanswerable, although I doubted much, but that some more potent means had been used. They are excellent mimics, their imitations of the way the protectors preach to them are sufficient to prove. In fact if a person has any peculiarity, the moment he leaves them their powers of imitations are elicited.

A most ludicrous circumstance once occurred in my presence in Westernport. A gentleman afflicted with a disease of the feet had been walking on the sands leaving an immense impression; I was walking on the beach with a native when we suddenly came upon these tracks, and the expression which immediately took possession of his countenance I shall never forget. It was the result of mingled wonder, fear, and curiosity. After looking at them for about a minute he turned towards me breaking silence at the same time with the monosyllable indicative of surprise, "ky, said he, big white fellow, long fellow like a tree," pointing at the same time to a tea tree about fourteen feet in height, "ky, ky, me never see white man like that," a sudden idea seemed to take possession of his brain. "By gar, I believe that paring (trail) belongs to the devil—come

on—let us go back, ky, ky, ky." He then looked at the track once more, and said "devil no got long leg, no take long steps." After allowing my dark companion to speculate a little longer on the probable road the devil might have taken, I explained the mystery to him, and we were fortunate enough to meet the gentleman with the big feet the same day, when he was subjected to the close inspection of my companion who considered me a very clever fellow from having been able to convince him he had not actually been treading in the devil's footsteps.

The origin of colonial names for different places is very amusing, and the peculiarities of these names excite so little surprise in the new comer. For instance, there is a public house about fifteen miles from Melbourne, on the Western-port road, known as the "No Good Damper," which was so called from the following incident.—The spot of ground were the house stands, was a favourite rendezvous for travellers from the town of Melbourne who might happen to be journeying in that neighbourhood a spring of good water being near. It so happened in the early days of the colony, that a settler by way of "coming out very strong," had amongst other miscellaneous articles on his dray a quantity of lime to beautify the interior of his hut, and on this very spot he encamped for the night. Some natives also had determined on a quamby there; and according to their usual custom, were not backward in begging for flour to make a damper with, prefacing it with the usual remark of "kit-kit warrynet," (we are very hungry.) On being informed that there was no flour on the dray, they said, "Oh, gammon! white fellow—look at the bags—see it is all tumbling out." Their attention had been drawn to the lime bags which appeared to them like flour; but, however, they could get none, and sullenly retired. As soon as they

noticed the men who were with the dray were asleep, one of them crept very softly up to the dray and helped himself plentifully from one of the lime bags, and with his prize returned to his companions. A sheet of bark was soon stripped, and each man was very shortly making up the lime for damper. When this operation was gone through, the composition they found would not adhere like dough, and on tasting it they discovered that it was not flour, and that it was unfit for food. The natives all retired after this severe disappointment to their repose in a somewhat sulky humour. As soon as day dawned, one of the men belonging to the dray proceeded to the natives' camp, never suspecting any thing wrong, and on asking a question or two was treated with silent contempt, no notice in the world being taken of him. After many fruitless efforts to "have a talk," he requested to be informed of the name of the portion of country they were in; one now rose up, and informed the enquirer that it was formerly called Monite, but that now its name should be No Good Damper adopted, so called from this incident taking place which I have just related. On the return of the man to his dray, the open lime bags explained every thing to him.

Many of the Port Philip blacks have at different times evinced very good feeling towards the white inhabitants, pointing out to them available tracts of country for stations. I think the young men might at one time have been induced to have settled down to some civilized employment had it not been from the treatment they received from convicts and old hands, which generally gives them a disgust for civilization. I remember a circumstance of a very interesting native called Benbo, *alias* Little Benbo, *alias* King Benbo, taking the trouble to build a kind of four-post bedstead in his mia mia or hut, on my asking

him how it was he was so different from the other natives in desiring to sleep on a bed, he said, "he wished to do as the white men did." This man was the head of a small tribe belonging to the Weiraby River, and was always remarkable for his good disposition. He was in the Native Police force, and his majesty favoured me previous to my leaving Port Philip, with an opportunity of taking a sketch of him. He was graciously pleased to accept a shilling for the trouble I had put him to in standing still for ten consecutive minutes. As a proof of his attachment to myself, I may state that when he saw me leave the wharf at Melbourne for the last time, he expressed his sorrow at my being obliged to go to England, and said as plainly as I could read his black but intelligent physiognomy, "I wish I were going with you;" but the steamer started, and the last time I caught a glimpse of poor Benbo through the trees on the Yarra's banks he had folded his arms and appeared to be thinking that in me he had lost a friend. I am sure I did in him, and one I have no reason to be ashamed of notwithstanding his being but a half civilized man and a black; and let the world say what it will, I know there is a strong prejudice against a black skin whether it belong to a Toussaint L'Ouverture or to a "nigger help." As Benbo was once instrumental in saving my life, I have good reason to be grateful to him.

The Government has certainly taken a wise step in forming a native police, and it is astonishing to see the change which has been worked in the members of this corps, since they have been taken out of the power of the protectors—men who before were fit for nothing, are now a great benefit to the colony from their knowledge of the bush, powers of tracking, &c., and now they are got under control, form as efficient a police as could be desired,

particularly in operations against distant troublesome tribes. The protectors were opposed to the measure, it would have been wonderful had it been otherewise, for the spell then of "universal failure" would have been broken. The Native Corps have been engaged since their formation in several serious encounters with distant tribes, and have always behaved themselves with courage and determination. A Captain Dana holds the principal command. He has under him two white sergeants, Bennett and Windridge, to the last of whom the colonists are principally indebted for the success which has attended the experiment of making policemen of the natives. It could scarcely be expected that the older men would submit to anything in the shape of martial law, and consequently only the younger ones were admitted into this body. During a campaign against the Portland Bay blacks, who had killed several settlers, and great quantities of stock, driving away sheep a thousand at a time—twelve of the Native Police under sergeant Windridge, came upon a camp of about two hundred, who had been committing sundry depredations in the neighbourhood, and waiting until the ensuing morning, boldly charged into the enemies' camp for the purpose of making prisoners of some of them who were well known to have been engaged in the recent murders and robberies. One immense fellow in particular was noticed to have on a shirt, and as this was a suspicious circumstance, sergeant Windridge sent one of his men called Tanmale to take him, whilst he was engaged with his remaining men in routing the others. On the wild black, who wore the shirt, discovering that he was an object of pursuit, he turned on the policeman twice, throwing a light spear at him each time, both of which took effect in his body, the one sticking in his shoulder, the other in his back, but he still continued

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YONKI YONKA.

the chase, and succeeded in grappling with the runaway, who tried every means in his power to escape by bitting the arm of his captor. This proceeding incensed the policeman, and perhaps fearing his prisoner might again escape, he drew a pistol, and firing, struck the black, who disappeared in a mass of scrub. His body was found the next day, the shot having mortally wounded him in the back; he had on eight shirts, the property of one of the murdered settlers; this was considered rather a strong proof of his guilt.

Several instances have occurred where natives who for many years have been living with Europeans, leaving them, and betaking themselves to their former haunts and habits of life. A native of one of the Westernport tribes, named Youki-Youka, was stolen from his tribe by some sealers, long before any permanent settlement took place in Australia Felix, and was taken by them to an island in Bass's Straits; with them he lived for seven or eight years. He made a voyage to Adelaide, South Australia, and from thence engaged himself to a gentleman who was about taking stock overland to Port Philip. Immediately on his return, his tribe gave him every welcome, and he took up his quarters again with his old friends and relatives, and is not now to be recognised from the others but by the good English he speaks. The protectors might have made him very serviceable to them, but *of course* did not. He is now a most dangerous character, for a half-civilized savage is more mischievous than one who has never mixed at all with the white population.

Much has been written upon the subject of civilizing the savages of many lands, theories without number have been promulgated, and some few put in practice; a small proportion of these have been successful, but regarding

this movement as a whole, there is one thing we are quite certain of, that it has proved a failure. I think I have said enough in the foregoing pages to shew that the blacks are capable of instruction if proper means are used, but so far all their acquirements are rather a disadvantage than otherwise. In any plan which may be adopted, some little tact in treating with them will be certainly necessary. I can only again express a hope that some home society will take this matter under their own management. The colonists would be only too glad to render their assistance to any feasible plan which may be adopted, but before anything can be expected to prosper, the present protectorate system must be abolished, and as far as possible its evil effects, both to the colonists and the natives counteracted.

CHAPTER VI.

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY OVERLAND FROM WESTERNPORT TO GIPP'S LAND, WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL KEPT ON THE ROUTE.

THE district of Gipp's Land situated to the N. E. of Wilson's Promontory, was first discovered by Count Streleutzki, an enterprising Polish traveller, who met with many almost insurmountable obstacles during his expedition, but who nevertheless, succeeded in laying open a fine tract of country hitherto unknown. He named his new discovery Gipp's Land, in honour of the present governor of New South Wales.

The object of the expedition to which I was attached, was to find a practicable route for stock from the Port Philip and Westernport districts into the less-occupied plains of Gipp's Land. The settlers from the Sydney side had been for several years engaged in sending large numbers of cattle and sheep to fatten on the luxuriant pasturage of the plains, having discovered a pass over the mountains which surround, (except on the coast) this splendid tract. The Port Philipians, who are much nearer

than the Sydney people, were naturally very anxious to reap the benefit of a share of this most valuable country, but owing to the ill-success which attended the attempts of several private individuals, influenced chiefly by the representations of C. Tyers, Esq., the crown commissioner of Gipp's Land, they despatched a party for the purpose of breaking through the almost impenetrable scrubs and forests which the able Streleutzki describes as abounding in the intermediate country from Westernport. Accordingly a party consisting of six native policemen, armed and mounted, headed by a white sergeant, named Windridge, constituted our army, to protect the remainder of the party and the dray. Their names are as follows—Tanmale, Mumbo, Munmunginnong, Woeworong, Ballagera, and Mooney; also three government men or convicts. One, as a bullock driver, another to proceed on horseback before the dray, and whose duty was to pick out the easiest passage through the maze of scrub, trees, and fallen timber, which was expected to beset our route, and in which we were not mistaken; the business of the third was to do any thing and every thing from cooking a "damper" to chopping down a gum tree. But I must here enlighten my reader as to what "damper" is. It is the bread of the bush, made with flour and water kneaded together and formed into dough which is baked in the ashes, and after a few months keeping is a good substance for bread. It only requires a slight scraping when taken from the fire to remove the dust or ash from the surface. A loaf of this description is usually made from three to six pounds in weight. And here I may mention that every man who intends leading a bush life may expect to be obliged to make his own dampers occasionally; should he be blessed with a wife it is very likely she would find ways and means

of manufacturing bread. I have ever found in establishments where there was no mistress, damper was always the fare; and on the contrary, where a wife formed a part of the household, bread is generally made, and more comfort and neatness reigned throughout. After this digression it will be as well for me to mention that the remainder of the party consisted of Mr. Robinson, the chief protector of aborigines, and myself, thus in the whole composing a motley crew of twelve able-bodied men.

The journey from Melbourne to Westernport is over a well-formed road, and is devoid of incident, suffice it therefore to say, that on the 23rd April, 1844, all the party arrived well at the old settlement in Westernport; this is the site of the attempted settlement of 1827 mentioned in my short account of Westernport. There are still to be seen remnants of houses in the shape of brick foundations, sawn timber, &c.; and on the brow of a hill, the stump of the flag staff is still standing. The site of the Commandant's house was pointed out to me, and it must have been a very extensive building, with a spacious verandah around it; two or three of the verandah posts remained. Many settlers near these ruins have been enabled to add greatly to the appearance and comfort of their huts, by taking the bricks found there for the purpose of erecting chimnies, forming floors, &c., giving their buildings a very superior appearance. A large tract of land fronting the sea had been cleared and fenced in, but the fence had been destroyed by the bush fires, and the underwood had grown up, interspersed with saplings, many of them a foot in diameter. The original settlement must have consisted of nearly fifty houses and huts, and the remains of a dam across the creek was still to be seen, but the quantity of sea-weed above it shewed that at this time it was quite useless in preventing

the salt water from mingling with the fresh. All this part of the country is now occupied by the cattle station of Messrs. Cuthbert and Gardiner, who on our arrival on the evening of the 23rd, at their homestead, insisted on entertaining Mr. Robinson, Mr. Thomas, and myself for the night; we were but too glad to avail ourselves of their hospitality, well knowing that it was the last night's sleep but one we should enjoy under a roof for some time. We started early, having partaken of a hearty breakfast with our friends on the morning of the 24th and after travelling on a road through some good country, arrived at Mr. Bayly's station where we had dinner, and passing over some steep hills came upon Chisholms, which was the last sign of civilization we met with until our arrival in Gipp's Land. Here, as is generally the case all over the bush, every attention was paid to us, and we were pressed to partake of the best things the Station afforded. Having slept there the night, which proved wet and disagreeable, we left on the morning of the 25th with many good wishes for the success of our journey; Mr. W. Thomas, one of the sub-protectors of the aborigines, who had accompanied the party thus far, left us to return to Melbourne, and we proceeded some distance in a south-east direction on an old dray track; after following this road for about three miles, we passed through two small rivers, called by the native police, Kirkanda and Toulermgum, both salt water. At the second, all hands had to assist the bullocks in dragging the dray out of the midst of the stream. This was any thing but a pleasant occupation in water about four feet deep, as we had the greater part of the day before us to ride in our wet clothes. However we succeeded in getting the stores, &c. over dry, and emerging on the other side found ourselves on sandy rises, over which we travelled for the remainder of the day;

the country presenting no material impediments to our progress as there was but little vegetation to be seen excepting some low scrub, and a solitary she oak springing up here and there. We noticed many tracks of cattle, and at length saw eight quite wild; there are great numbers running on these barren hills supposed to be descended from some which were left at the abandoned settlement at Westernport. Those which have been killed have been found to be poor and of little value excepting for their hides. In the afternoon we saw some kangaroos and wallaby, but did not succeed in killing any; however, towards evening, on passing through some belts of stringy bark forest the black police succeeded in killing five bears, called in their language Carbora. They are a species of sloth, and are stupid looking creatures, never attempting to get away from their pursuers who climb the tallest trees after them; by making notches with their tomahawks, in which they place their toes, and ascend nearly as easily as a sailor would up the rigging of a ship.

About seven o'clock in the evening we halted for the night, and the bullocks and horses were let loose to crop the few blades of grass which could be found on the desolate and sandy plain. All hands were soon busily employed in forming shelters for the night; in the first place, wood was collected, and a large fire made; the kettles and pots were filled with water at a shallow lagoon, of the existence and purity of which we had satisfied ourselves before we determined on camping, and the vessels being put upon the fire, the men next proceeded to erect the tent, which belonged to them and the sergeant. The blacks were provided with a tarpaulin, which they seldom took the trouble to use, except there were very strong indications of rain. Mr. Robinson and myself were left to

our own resources, and both of us being experienced bushmen, we were not long in finding out dry spots to repose in. Mr. R., with a large blanket supported by poles, made a very passable sleeping place; and as for myself, the dray formed a capital roof, and pulling down the tarpaulin, formed a covered apartment, about eleven feet by thirteen, but of a most inconvenient height, being not above two feet six inches, but it made altogether a most excellent bed-room, not altogether perhaps consistent with an English person's idea of comfort, but on a rainy evening in the wilderness of Australia, a few dry feet are a luxury which only a bushman can appreciate. In addition to the comfort of having a dry roof overhead, when time would admit, a few sheets of bark formed my floor, and effectually prevented any moisture from rising underneath. While we were making matters pretty snug for the night, the cooking progressed in a most satisfactory manner under the superintendence of Davy, the cook. Tea and boiled beef were soon attacked on all sides with no lack of appetite, after an abstinence from food since the morning; and a pipe of tobacco added its exhilarating influence to our fatigued frames; after securing the bullocks and horses to prevent their straying, we retired to repose about nine, and enjoyed such sleep as is only to be purchased by exercise and active employment.

We resumed our journey by eight o'clock on the morning of the 26th, and travelled through about fifteen miles of a similar country to that of yesterday, excepting that it was generally more level and the plains were covered with a wiry grass which the cattle and horses refuses to eat. A high range of mountains to our left, the natives called Tolwon. We left some plains lying east and west, and taking a direction for the coast, came in sight of the ocean at

one P.M., and shortly after arrived on the sea shore, on which we travelled for about a mile, when we again struck into the woods, and found ourselves in a good country, not thickly timbered, and with plenty of good grass. About four, we came on a creek of fresh water, where there were some wild ducks, and the food for the beasts being very fine above its banks, we determined to camp there.

I may mention here the quantity of our stores which were considered sufficient to last for three weeks; the government officers supposing that quite time enough to travel one hundred miles in a straight line, which is about the distance of Gipp's Land from Westernport; that they had not properly considered the kind of district we should have to make our way through, the sequel will prove; but it was certainly taken into consideration, that the smaller load there was on the back of the dray, the faster the bullocks would travel. Our stores on leaving Westernport, were about 360 lbs. of flour, 250 lbs. of beef, 18 lbs. of tea, 60 lbs. of sugar, and four of tobacco, for a number of twelve; in addition to this food for ourselves, we had about ten bushels of oats for the horses, in case we should get into country where there was no natural grass for them, a thing not by any means improbable. The night was fine, but we were all disturbed by the howlings of the wild dogs. Our natives, who had now left their own part of the country, appeared by a ceremony they performed, to consider they were intruding on an enemies territory. I noticed during the whole journey, when they camped in the evening they invariably cut a number of boughs and twigs, and made a kind of leafy throne, on which they reposed. As I had never seen this done in their own district, I enquired the reason, but all the information I could gather was, that it was a custom with them to do this when they visited a

tract of country for the first time. One or two of them had been here before, but I noticed they usually went through the same ceremony, which they call " annert."

On the 27th instant, after pushing our way through a low scrubby tract, we arrived at a salt water creek with mangroves, growing on the banks, and having a very muddy bottom; the native name was Barbinora. The working party immediately commenced bringing logs and cutting down saplings to form a temporary bridge for the passage of our dray, &c., which the muddy nature of the bottom rendered necessary. A large tree was felled, so that it lay across the creek, a number of logs of timber were then cast in above it which soon filled up the bed of the creek, and with the assistance of some earth thrown on the top of all there was a sufficient foundation to prevent the dray and cattle from getting bogged, which they most assuredly would have been but for this contrivance. Shortly after having surmounted this difficulty we found ourselves on the bank of a much wider salt creek, but were fortunate enough to find a ledge of rock which stretched across and afforded just space enough for the dray to pass over. A thick scrub of tea trees now prevented our making much progress, and to add to our disagreeable position, heavy rain set in which lasted during the afternoon, wetting us quite through. We camped early on a spot of poor country without much herbage, and uncertain whether we should find water; having erected our shelters or quambys as they are generally called after the native name; a search was instituted and some pools of rain water discovered sufficient to supply our present wants. We were well satisfied at this result, and after drying our clothes at a huge fire we retired to our several places of repose, having travelled about ten miles from our

last night's camping ground. On Sunday, the 28th April, we were pushing our way all day through a low scrubby country, and could only procure surface water left by the late rains. Made about five miles to-day, and passed through the beds of several dry creeks.

On the 29th we were still engaged in overcoming the scrub which appeared to increase in density as we proceeded until the afternoon, when we got on some sandy rises comparatively clear of undergrowth, and abounding with wiry grass. Passing over these, a ready swamp checked our progress for a short time; the cattle eat the young reeds with avidity, and it was rather a difficult matter to force them from their scanty feeding place. They were, however, by dint of great shouting induced to tug the dray from the morass, but shortly after we discovered another larger extent of reeds, with a heavy scrub ahead of us, which from its appearance was likely to delay us some days. Thinking this under all circumstances the most favourable place for a camp, the usual routine of duty was gone through, and we were gratified in finding the reeds would afford sufficient sustenance for our cattle and horses for some days. After pitching our camp on the second lagoon, I left with Mr. Robinson to explore the scrub in front of us, and found it a most difficult matter to get through it even on foot. It was like forcing a way through a quick set hedge, with the addition of large saplings and full grown trees springing up in every direction. After great difficulty, divers holes being torn in our clothes, with legs lacerated by the briers, we had penetrated near a mile into it when it suddenly ceased and we found ourselves on the bank of a deep river, about fifty yards wide, and which we correctly imagined was the Tarwin. After making this discovery, we returned to the camp and found the cattle and horses eating heartily

of the long reeds in the lagoon. It was fortunate that we had pitched upon that spot, for there was not a blade of grass to be seen in any other direction, although the soil was very rich and moist, and the timber around us, and on the river's bank of the most magnificent description, consisting of blackwood, gum, musk, &c., &c. I measured a white gum tree which had fallen, and found it one hundred and seventy-two feet in the stem, and as straight as an arrow. If it were not for the solid and heavy nature of this timber, it would make excellent spars for shipping.

Early on the morning of the 30th, the working party assisted by the police with their tomahawks, who were literally in undress uniform, having thrown off their policeman's dresses and wrapped their blankets about their loins, commenced cutting away for the dray through the dense undergrowth and completed the opening to the river by the 2nd of May. During this work tracks of horses were seen, and were declared by our natives to have been those of a party who had gone down three weeks before on horseback to Gipp's Land. Many of the trees near the river had been stripped of their bark to the height of twenty feet by the Gipp's Land blacks for the purpose of making canoes. On the afternoon of the 2nd the camp was struck, the dray re-packed, and a move onward again made, but in consequence of the number of stumps left standing, this was rather a dangerous service for the bullock driver who nearly lost his life whilst bringing his cattle and dray to the river. In consequence of the width of the passage cut, not allowing him room to walk by the side of his bullocks, he was obliged to mount on the top of the baggage, and induce them to keep moving by continually shouting. The dray in passing over a stump had tilted up, and coming down

with a jerk, threw the bullock-driver out on the top of the scrub, where he stuck, until the heavy dray had passed on. During the day, the natives killed several pheasants.

Surmounting every difficulty, and all the baggage being brought on the brink of the stream, our next endeavour was to find a dry spot on which to erect our camp, but this was discovered to be out of the question, for all the land here was boggy, and was evidently subject to floods. Dry sleeping places were made on heaps of logs collected for the occasion, and answered the purpose exceedingly well. All hands were very busy that night, repairing the ravages made in their several wardrobes by the scrub, and as stability was the principal object to be regarded, the patches were not remarkable for neatness or beauty of material—pieces of kangaroo hide forming a good substitute for moleskin, and small twine for thread, being much stronger. Notwithstanding the disadvantage of a hard bed, I enjoyed a good night's rest, and was awakened at sun-rise on the 3rd, by the singing of numerous pheasants, *(menura superba.)* These birds are the mocking birds of Australia, imitating all the sounds that are heard in the bush in great perfection. They are about the size of a barn-door fowl, and are not remarkable for any beauty either in the shape or color, being of a dirty brown, approaching to black in some parts; their greatest attraction consists in the graceful tail of the cock bird, which assumes something the appearance of a lyre, for which reason some naturalists have called them lyre birds. But little is known of their habits, for it is seldom they are found near the dwellings of civilized man, as they delight in the solitude of a thick underwood, where but little opportunity offers for observing their habits; hearing one scratching in the scrub close by the dray, every thing around being still, I crawled out of my

dormitory, and gun in hand, proceeded towards the sound, intending to provide myself with a fresh mess for breakfast. The sun having just risen, induced it to commence its morning song, but the natural note (blen-blen) of this bird, was almost lost amongst the multitude of the sounds it was then producing. The croak of the crow, the scream of the cockatoo, the doleful cry of the morepork, the chattering of parrots, the ridiculous hooting of the laughing jackass, and the howl of the wild dog, were all produced in such quick succession, that a stranger might have well imagined he was in the midst of a multitude of these denizens of the woods.

Having succeeded in rounding a point of scrub which concealed my intended breakfast from my sight, I obtained a partial view of a large male bird strutting round in a circle, scratching the rich mould up with its formidable claws and spreading open its beauteous tail to catch the glittering rays of the sun which now broke through the dense forest. I afterwards discovered he had been eating a small kind of black leach, often found in the wet soil of the mountains, as many an unfortunate traveller can testify from their persecutions at night. As there appeared every probability of his occupation continuing for some time, and as I fancied a stir was being made at the camp, I raised my gun, when off went a piece within six feet of me, and a low chuckle announced that the sportsman had made a good shot. It was one of the black police, who had departed from the camp on the same mission as myself, and hearing my bird's song, sneaked past me, wondering what could be the meaning of my looking a pheasant in the face within ten paces with a loaded gun in my hand. Thinking possibly my piece had missed fire, he saved my powder and shot by blowing the bird's head off, which had been

amusing me for more than an hour. On explaining to him that he had shot my bird, he politely handed it over to me without a word, I regaled myself on its carcase, though not at the expense of my conscience, for it would have been but a poor return to have slaughtered it after having entertained me so long.

These birds are exceedingly shy, and when disturbed never rise high from the ground, but running off into the densest of the scrub, scarcely allow a sportsman time to raise his piece, before they are out of his reach. The aborigines—more patient in the pursuit of game, and better able to approach it when discovered than most white men —seldom kill more than three brace in the course of a day. It is worthy of notice, that the song of this bird is scarcely ever heard during rain or when the sun is obscured, and it is the note which directs the wary native where they are to be found. The nest of this bird is about three feet in circumference, and one foot deep, having the orifice on one side. They lay but one egg, of a slate colour, with black spots; the female is a very unattractive bird, having but a poor tail, nothing like that of the male.

To proceed with the journey;—The banks of the Tarwin being too steep and muddy for getting the cattle and the dray across, the working party were engaged all the morning in preparing a way, by cutting down the earth, and laying logs on the mud. Whilst the men were occupied in this work, the natives were busily employed in stripping a sheet of bark from a gum tree, to form a canoe capable of carrying across the luggage and the men who were required to cut down a quantity of the opposite bank to give the cattle an opportunity of landing. The canoe was made of the bark from a tree having a bend or elbow in its trunk, when by the action of fire it was made into the most convenient

shape, and the ends tied with bark, and stopped with clay, thus rendering it water-tight. Some of the canoes made by the Gipp's Land blacks must have been upwards of twenty feet in length, for we noticed several trees despoiled of their bark to that height. Our canoe, about ten feet in length, with a beam of two feet six inches, being completed and launched, a native, called Mumbo, took charge of it, and by crossing thirty times, managed to get all the lighter baggage and the individuals composing the party across in safety, but not without many narrow escapes from getting swamped, in consequence of the number of snags in the river. The dray, horses, and bullocks, and two or three barrels, were now all that remained for us to get over, and the men succeeded in finishing a landing place by about four P.M. A kind of raft was made by fastening with ropes a number of spars down to the stout trunks of trees, and which being placed on the soft mud, prevented the cattle from being bogged. The tide, which affected the river where we were, proving favourable, an attempt was made to cross the stores as soon as our preparations allowed us. A rope being passed over the river, the end was fastened to a leather collar on the neck of a horse, which being driven to the water, we were enabled by means of the rope, to guide to the landing place; if this point were missed, the animal was in imminent danger. We succeeded in getting three horses across, in this manner, when the fourth in getting out hitched its leg between two of the spars, and to extricate him we were obliged to destroy nearly the whole of the work which had cost so much time and trouble, and to delay getting the others over until the next tide, which would allow us time to repair damages. All the morning of the 4th, the working party were occupied in mending the landing place; at one P.M. we began crossing

On Stone by HJ Hainfselln.

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the rest of the cattle, and had them all over alive by five. Several of the remaining horses were so weak that they were obliged to be hauled out of the river by ropes, fastened round the body. Their condition was a matter of great importance, as on their assistance we so much depended. Many of them were not fit for such a journey as this when we first started, and the small quantity of food they had subsisted on since, had not tended to improve their strength or appearance. But now there was another difficulty to be overcome, the dray had to be brought over.—After much consideration, the two empty casks were made water-tight, and fastened to the middle beam of this heavy conveyance, when the bullock chains were firmly hooked to the pole, and the ends taken across in the canoe, the cattle were now fastened to them, and we hoped we might thus succeed in dragging it out before it would have time to sink, and become entangled in the many impediments which were in the bottom of the river; but we were again doomed to disappointment, and our mortification was extreme to find all our attempts frustrated by its sinking, and remaining firmly attached to a sunken tree. The bullocks could not stir it, and as the tide was now low, our only hope was that at high water on the morrow, we might with that circumstance in our favour, and the strength of the current, be enabled to extricate it, for without this means of conveyance our journey must have ended there. Accordingly, as soon as tide served, on the 5th, every preparation was made, and at the first haul, a part of the dray emerged from the stream. Encouraged by the shouts of the whole party, and the perseverance of the assistant bullock driver, "Chops," a second effort was made, and we had the satisfaction of seeing our carriage slowly rise from its muddy bed and arrive in safety on the

Gipp's Land side of the Tarwin. The dray was immediately re-loaded, and the horses saddled. On proceeding up the river with some of the blacks, we suddenly came upon a deserted camp of the aborigines; it contained upwards of a hundred huts; observing this, the blacks that were with me worked themselves into violent passions and commenced throwing their tomahawks and knocking down the huts in every direction. They said, this had been a camping ground of the Gipp's Land natives, who were their enemies. After expending their wrath in this manner, we returned to our party, and in about an hour, were again wending our solitary way through a thickly timbered country under the guidance of our police.*

We passed near some open country in the course of the morning, where there was good grass, but did not consider it advisable to remain longer near the river than was absolutely necessary, as there were pretty strong symptoms that our provisions would not last us to Gipp's Land. Having travelled through about five miles of scrub, we pitched our camp on a sand hill, with a moderately open country in front of us, giving promise of an easy day's journey on the morrow. There were two high bold hills near us, of the same sandy foundation as the one we were on; great quantities of felspar are found on the surface of this part of the country, which is intersected by numerous creeks of good water. I accompanied some blacks to the top of the highest hill, to obtain a view of the country; whilst proceeding thither, one of them pointed out to me certain tracks which he said were made by white men on that very morning. He took great pains to make me distinguish them, but to no purpose; I could not discover

* The next party who crossed the Tarwin with cattle, attempted it near its mouth, and lost a great number of cattle and calves by the sharks which abound there.

any thing like the impression of a human foot; at length, after he had tracked some way, he proceeded to a bottom where they had crossed, and the ground was softer. Previous to arriving at this spot, he showed me several places where he said two white men had lain down. I certainly could see that the wiry grass had been pressed there, but whether by a wild dog, or a human being, was quite beyond my ability to discern. However, on arriving at the bottom, there were the fresh impressions of human feet, and evidently white men, for one of them had shoes on, and the other most probably mocassins, from the trail he left. After the native saw I was perfectly convinced of the truth of his previous statement, "now," said he, "white man berry clever, no mistake, make him house, and flour, and tea, and sugar, and tobacco, and clothes, but white fellow no find out when another white man walk along a road—I believe sometimes white man berry stupid." I explained to him that the reason of the whites' ignorance on this matter was simply because they never required such knowledge in their own country. He said "he wondered much what could have made so many leave such a good country, where there were no wild white men, or bush rangers." By the time we arrived at the camp it was near dusk, and there was every indication of a wet night.

On the morning of Monday the 6th, after a few showers we resumed our journey over a heathy and undulating country, with belts of stringy bark forest, deep gulleys, and water courses intersecting it. Some of the gulleys were so steep, as to oblige us to unload the dray, and carry the luggage up the opposite bank, and although the generality of the rivulets were not more than seven or eight feet across, none of them were less than as much in depth, so that we were obliged to throw temporary

bridges over each for the passage of the dray and cattle. However, with all these impediments, we made about eight miles, and slept soundly on the banks of a creek after the fatigues of the day.

On Tuesday, the 7th, we made excellent progress, thirteen miles through a very similar country to that which we passed yesterday, excepting that the gulleys did not occur so frequently. In the afternoon we obtained a sight of the sea, after getting over a low Range of hills which had before intercepted our view. The high land of Wilson's Promontory appeared quite close to us, and the Glenny Islands, in Bass's Straits, were easily to be distinguished. We passed through some miles of country overgrown with the grass tree, from the stem of which a resinous substance exudes. In the gulleys the beautiful fern trees were very numerous, and seemed to invite the traveller to rest underneath their splendid foliage. Whilst passing over a sand hill in the afternoon, a large emu was observed feeding a short distance from us, but in consequence of the noise made by the bullock-whip, was off before opportunity offered of getting a shot. A beautiful species of white moss covered much of the ground; in this part we camped for the night, under a heathy hill on the bank of a small creek.

On the 8th, we made about eight miles through a low scrubby country, the scrub being literally knit together by quantities of the dwarf vine, so that it was dreadful work for the bullocks to tear through it. This day we made no less than fourteen bridges over as many creeks, and camped on the bank of a large one, with a rapid stream unlike any of the others we had yet seen. Here we noticed many recent marks left by the wild blacks, Munmunginnong found a golboranarrook, or stone tomahawk, which had doubtless been left by them. This put the whole of our

natives on the *qui vive,* the old Tower muskets provided by government, were examined and cleaned, new flints were fixed, and in a short time they were quite prepared to give any unwelcome visitors a very warm reception.

An untoward circumstance happened in the night, I was awaked about twelve o'clock by hearing as I supposed some "person or persons" tumbling the baggage out of the dray from over my head, and having made up mind before turning in, that a disturbance from the wild blacks would not be improbable, I seized my gun, and got out of my cramped position, just in time to discover that the cause of my disquietude arose from one of the horses which had broken its tether rope, and having found out the dray had been taking great liberties with the remainder of our scanty stores, draging out the flour and sugar, of which last article he had made a meal, leaving the bag empty; the flour bag being better tied, his sagacity did not enable him to open it, or there is every probability we should have found ourselves in the morning minus the staff of life. The sugar was a great loss to us, it was all we had.

On Thursday, the 9th, we made about three miles, and had to unload the dray several times in getting across some creeks. In consequence of the dearth of game in the land we had passed through, and our not having killed much, our beef was all consumed, one allowance only remaining, which was cooked to-night, and with great care made to last out for the ensuing three days. After that period, the only animal food we procured for some time consisted of extraordinarily tough bear and a few pheasants shot occasionally by the natives, and fairly portioned out to each of the party. The bullocks broke two yokes in the course of the day. We noticed several cones built of earth, from six to eight feet in height, and on knocking one down, found it was tenanted by a small kind of ant.

Nothing worth mentioning occurred on the 10th, excepting that the country, if possible, appeared to be worse than any we had yet seen—not a blade of grass was to be discovered amongst the mass of tangled undergrowth, but we managed to get through five miles in the course of the day, and then camped in the scrub.

On Saturday, the 11th, after journeying about a mile, we came upon a river scrub, and penetrating it, found a large stream about thirty yards across, and which was wrongly named the La Trobe by us; we afterwards found it had received no English name, and was probably one of the streams which Strelentzky had discovered emptied itself into Corner Inlet—the natives called it Lang Lang Berin. It appeared of good depth, with a muddy bottom much intercepted by fallen timber, and scrubby on both sides. A large tree had fallen across the stream just above the spot where we first saw it, and formed a very excellent bridge over, but so slippery as to render a ducking in crossing an event to be expected. Having procured a tomahawk, I made the first attempt to cross, and by getting astride the tree, and cutting chips from it, I managed to get over, but by the time of arrival found myself in an unfortunate position, having lost the best part of one of the legs of my trousers, but I consoled myself with the knowledge that there was no fear of falling in with any of the fair sex in our present position. The prospect from this side, (if prospect it could be called when ten feet was the utmost extent of vision,) was as unfavourable as on the other, the scrub being very thick and of the same description of wood as is seen on the Tarwin. In addition to the timber being larger, all the axes were out of order, and we had no means of sharpening them. Having cleared away a spot for the camp, we succeeded in taking across all our baggage on the log, leaving

the dray and cattle to be got over on the morrow. During the night the rain poured down in torrents, but by the aid of a piece of tarpaulin, I kept myself dry.

All Sunday, the 12th, we were employed in cutting a track through the scrub which did not extend so far as we anticipated, and had completed it by the evening, but not in time enough to bring the cattle, &c. across that night, but early on the 13th, the dray was taken over in the same manner as at the Tarwin. The beasts now took well to the water, and did not give us so much trouble as at the former river. One of the horses was missing at the time of crossing. The party now moved on for about half a mile, and another large scrub obliged us again to halt and camp until a track was cut through it. On the morning of the 14th, two of the party returned to the river to search for the lost horse, and luckily found and got him over well; they soon overtook the party, who had again made a move, and were pushing through the vile scrub at any thing but a railroad pace. The country appeared to get thicker as we proceeded, and at the end of the day's journey, it was found we had only travelled about three miles, and this was after being mounted from day-light till dark. Our situation now began to assume rather a disagreeable aspect, in a strange part of the country, affording scarcely any food for man or beast, with our cattle and horses already in a starving state, and we ourselves having a fair prospect of shortly sharing nearly the same fate, for the discovery was made this evening that the quantity of flour remaining would not admit of making more than one damper, when our whole store would be exhausted—the flour bag was emptied, the dough baked, and after a sparing meal we retired wet, hungry, and dispirited. The nearest spot we were certain of being able to procure supplies was ninety-three miles from us, to which we

should have had to return on our own track. How far we were yet from Gipp's Land was a mystery, but it was considered advisable rather than return without accomplishing our object, to push on to the last, as there was no knowing, but that we might be even then, on the very borders of the promised land; of one thing we were very certain, that it was well hedged in by scrubs and morass. There was no appearance of game or food of any description —the country and its productions appeared unsuited in its natural state for the sustenance of any living thing. The cattle eat the dwarf vine, which was growing in great quantities about the camp, not from choice, but because it was the only food of any description they could procure.

On Wednesday, the 15th, we made about three miles, and camped with a thick tea tree scrub in front of us. The last of the damper was consumed, and we all turned in hungry, with the dead certainty of no breakfast on the coming morning. After a heavy night's rain, a council was held, and Mr. Robinson, who, by the bye, notwithstanding all the privations already gone through, had by no means fallen off in his naturally corpulent figure, determined to proceed with two policemen, Mooney and Ballagera, in search of the settlements in Gipp's Land, and immediately on his arrival there, to forward supplies to our present camp, where from our weak state, and that of the stock, we considered it best to wait in patience, subsisting in the mean time as we best could. According to this arrangement, Mr. Robinson, and his two blacks started at nine o'clock, accompanied by Sergeant Windridge, and another native to explore the country for a short distance to see if a more favourable place could be found to tether the horses, but in the afternoon he returned in disappointment, and reported the country for some miles to be of

precisely the same character as the part we already occupied. Shortly before this party left, a heavy storm of thunder and lightening, accompanied by hail and wind, put us all in commotion for about an hour. For a minute, whilst the whirlwind swept past, all the trees bowed before its fury, large branches were twisted from the parent stems, and many a "monarch of the forest" was torn up by the roots, its downfall accompanied with a noise like thunder. Taking a station at the windward side of a huge gum tree, being the clearest spot I could find, I watched the effects of the hurricane, expecting every moment to see the tent carried up in the air, leaving the contents exposed to the peltings of the storm, but my fears on this point were not of long duration, for two tea trees, situated near the tent, after withstanding the first fury of the blast, presently fell directly across it, smashing it to the ground, and most effectually prevented its being blown away. Fearing lest some of the men might have been inside it at the time, I rushed towards it, and on my approach, had the satisfaction of seeing them surrounding the fragments, and contemplating with no slight degree of despondency, the "ruins of their house." Had this occurrence taken place in the night, the effect must have been fatal, for the trees had fallen directly across the bedplace. One of the trees had also struck the dray, but without doing it any material injury. The storm abated in about an hour, and the silence of the bush formed a strong contrast to the commotion of the elements which we had just witnessed. Hunting parties were now formed, two of the blacks took one direction, and Sergeant Windridge and the remaining natives another, but with very slight hopes of being successful. The remainder of the party kept posession of the camp. As soon as the foragers had left, the trees were cleared away

from the tent, and we found it in such a state as to be entirely useless. An old tarpaulin was fitted up so as to supply its place, and by the time the two parties had returned in the evening, we had made matters as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. All of us looked with some anxiety at the game bags, but it was a most lamentable fact that they appeared quite empty. This result proved to be very near the truth, for the only food procured was one pheasant and two small parrots, and these having to be divided amongst nine hungry individuals did not very effectually allay the importunities of our appetites. After this very light repast we retired to sleep, hoping to drown forgetfulness. If some of us did not enjoy "balmy sleep," it was not to be attributed to indigestion. The morning of the 17th was ushered in with heavy squalls from the s. w., accompanied with rain. This was a source of great uneasiness to us, as the whole of the country about us was so low as to leave us in a very unpleasant state of uncertainty in the event of heavy rain whether we should not be flooded. Our present troubles were quite enough to contend with at once, so we dismissed these in prospective and called forth all our energies to the subject of procuring food. The luggage was all taken from the dray and searched, hoping some stray scraps of bread might be found amongst it. We were beginning to despair of finding any thing eatable, when my eye accidentally fell on the apparently empty flour bag. Ninety-nine people out of a hundred who do not know what hunger really is, would without hesitation have pronounced it a decided vacuum and have dismissed it accordingly, but this was not our case. With the greatest care so that none of the dust even should be blown away the bag was turned inside out, and we were delighted to find portions of hardened flour sticking to the

sides of the bag, from the frequent wettings it had been subject to; every particle of this was scraped off amounting to about half a pound, to be divided into five portions. Whilst the cook was occupied in making the most of the prize, two of the black police started to hunt for some animal food, which they were lucky enough to find in a bear before they had been gone very long. On their return they presented us with a hind leg about one pound in weight, keeping the remainder for their own consumption. We were rather inclined to dispute this arrangement, but considering that in such a case the blacks might leave us in the lurch to find other food as we best might, we rested satisfied with the share we had already; and there is very great difficulty in discovering these animals amongst the thick foliage of the trees, and also in bringing them down afterwards, their tenacity of life being most extraordinary. I once put five three-quarter ounce balls through one of them, not more than thirteen pounds in weight before it would let go its hold. To return to our feed—the leg was cooked and divided—the flour had, by the addition of five pints of water and much boiling, swelled up to a goodly size, supplying us each with about three quarters of a pint of *skillagalee*, something nearly allied to very thin paste. Now I would wish to call the attention of all romantic emigrants, who imagine settling in a wild country to be nothing more than a pic-nic on a large scale, to this by no means uncommon situation. Here were five very hungry men, considering themselves fortunate in having half-a-pound of flour amongst them for a meal, and that the first they had enjoyed for some time. I do not say this to dishearten them, but to show that emigration is not a step to be taken for a whim, but one that demands deliberate calculation.

After enjoying this repast, we retired full of hope that aid would reach us on the morrow from Gipp's Land; but the eighteenth came, and we were disappointed. The blacks again went hunting, and returned with one bear, giving us half of it, which afforded us a mouthful each, small as it was, and hungry as we were, we could not fail to notice its extraordinary toughness; it was like eating so much leather. About four o'clock in the afternoon, we imagined we heard a shot, but at a great distance. This trifling incident served to put us in better spirits for the remainder of the day, but when nightfall came, and no succour, it produced a corresponding degree of despondency. We considered, from the direction in which it was supposed the shot was fired, that a party were on our trail, as it was known to us before we started it was the intention of a settler, named Hobson, to follow on our track with a herd of cattle, and by so doing get into Gipp's Land. No stranger, however, approached, and we all spent another night of hunger and restlessness. On turning out on Sunday, the 19th, several of the party were so weak that they were obliged to lie down again almost immediately. Robert Farley, the bullock-driver, deserved great credit for the attention he bestowed on his cattle to prevent their straying, as it was to these we should have to look for food, in case assistance did not reach us very shortly. The poor creatures were nearly in as bad a plight as ourselves, their skeletons being what a phrenologist would call "very well developed." Several parties went out, but in consequence of weakness could not go far, and they all returned without any game. Our situation now called loudly for some decisive steps being taken; our appetite could not be tampered with any longer, and it was useless to remain in our present forlorn position. We therefore determined to kill one of the

working bullocks on the morrow, and to make the best progress we could with the remainder of the team in the direction of Gipp's Land. It was easy to be forseen if we remained where we were much longer, the horses and cattle would be unable ever to leave it. After spending a sleepless night, from the idea of having a plentiful breakfast; as soon as day dawned, the smallest of the bullocks was tied to a tree and shot, but not until in their hurry it had been missed twice, such was the eagerness to dispatch it. No sooner was the poor animal dead, than five or six eager pairs of hands were occupied on several parts of the carcase in flaying it, and in an incredibly short period, portions were cooked and served up for breakfast. It is almost needless to say how ravenously the meat was dispatched, but unpleasant symptoms took place from the effect of eating too hastily after such a long fast. We remained at the camp a sufficient time to allow these to subside, and then proceeded to yoke up the six bullocks, and to fasten them to the dray, allowing the odd one to follow, which it did until the conclusion of our journey. We found the cattle and horses exceedingly weak, leaving it doubtful whether the greater proportion of them would not die before we could get into Gipp's Land. On going to untie the horses, we were concerned to find one of them in a dying state; it had entangled its legs in the tether by which it was fastened, and had plunged so violently as to dislocate a leg, and finding it impossible to get it on, the sergeant ended its torments by shooting it. We then resumed our weary way through a fern tree valley, where these plants were growing from ten to fifteen feet in height, and forming altogether perhaps one of the most beautiful scenes in Australia Felix. A great quantity of the ground passed over this day was undermined by a small creature shaped like a

cray fish, rendering the travelling very bad and unsafe. My horse several times during the day sunk in halfway up the leg, and several of the party performed some eccentric somersets; occasionally we had all to get off and walk. Overcoming many difficulties which our weakness and that of the cattle rendered almost insurmountable, we made only about two miles, in consequence of the bluntness of the axes, which were now nearly useless. Arriving at a large creek, we camped, trusting supplies might soon reach us, for although we had now a plentiful supply of beef, we still felt most severely the want of the other necessaries of life. The meat too, as will be readily believed, was not of a description to remind one of the "Roast beef of old England." There was not so much as an ounce of fat on the whole beast, we had no salt to render it more palatable, and I can assure the admirers of roast beef, that let it be ever so good, if they should be reduced to the necessity of living on that *alone* for a few days, they would never relish it so much afterwards. We still had a quantity of tea and tobacco remaining; and here let me pause, and record some of the virtues of this bewitching weed. When food was scarce, and hunger pressed us, it was delightful to observe, after perhaps taking a pipe for dinner, the great change which inhaling its fumes produced on us all. Those who before looked haggard and completely knocked up, revived under its stimulating influence, and patient endurance took the place of illnature and discontent. Do any doubt my word, and say, "Tobacco is pernicious under every circumstance?" Let them reduce themselves to short commons for a week or two, then feel the benefit they will derive when hungry from smoking, and speak from experience of its effects. What sayeth an old rhymer of the year 1654, on the use of tobacco:—

" Much meat doth gluttony procure
To feed men fat as swine;
But he's a frugal man indeed
Who on a *leaf* can dine!

He needs no napkin for his hands
His finger's ends to wipe;
That hath his kitchen in a box,
His roast meat in a pipe!"

There is no doubt that smoking to excess is most pernicious, so is beef eating, for on Tuesday morning such was our disgust of the meat that none was consumed, although we all felt the gnawings of hunger. We found the broth in which the beef had been boiled much more strengthening than the meat itself, and so we breakfasted upon that. Our dogs, which by the bye, were reduced to skeletons, soon recovered flesh under this arrangement.

On once more proceeding, we still continued on Robinson's trail through tremendous scrubs. Whilst engaged in hammering (to say cutting would be wrong) down the undergrowth with the blunt axes, at twelve o'clock we were agreeably surprised by hearing a long shrill cooey ring through the woods, and on listening attentively the sound of axes was also heard. Several of our party commenced shouting like mad men, and a stranger to have suddenly dropped upon us must have concluded he had fallen into company with some good tempered but half-demented savages. Cooeys were given and replied to, and the crash of falling timber proclaimed that a road was being opened to us by the as yet unseen party. They shortly cut an opening to our position and were received with a hearty cheer. The fresh pioneers were named Marly and Broadribb, the leaders of the band, who had four working hands under their direction. They brought us the welcome intelligence that two pack horses were

on the road to us laden with stores. As they had brought no bread with them, we only rested long enough to hear the news from Gipp's Land, and then the woods again echoed with the sturdy strokes of the axes of our goodly party now increased to seventeen strong. We were all anxious to make our way into a more favourable country for our own sakes as well as to save the lives of the bullocks and horses, one of which fell yesterday through weakness and was unable to rise again. On returning this morning to see if it had at all recovered it was found dead, the wild dogs having already commenced feeding on the carcase. Two carrion crows were also seen, being the only living creatures observed for some days, but at night the dismal howlings of wild dogs occasionally assailed our ears. After making the best of our way for about eight miles into a scrub we came up to the pack horses, one of Mr. Robinson's blacks had returned with them, and he reported that they had been three days and a half in getting to Victoria, in consequence of Mr. Robinson persisting in taking a line of route which led him into a mountain range. It was a most fortunate occurrence for this gentleman and ourselves that he had natives with him to remedy his error, or it is very probable we should never have heard any thing further of him, or have ever reached the desired land. Immediately on his presenting himself to Mr. Tyers, the commissioner of crown lands for Gipp's Land, and reporting the forlorn position of the expedition, Mr. T. instantly dispatched the provisions with the party who had first reached us, giving them directions to press onwards to us without delay. From having been several times placed in very similar situations to our own, this gentleman took the most speedy means for our relief. Ballagera also informed me that Mr. Robinson had not forgotten to provide himself with a

sufficiency of damper to last him into Gipp's Land, and that he actually had so much as to be enabled to give his horse a share. This was certainly an honourable trick, as he left us half starved behind him, and much to the credit of the *chief protector*, though, by the bye, the term in this case was very applicable to him, inasmuch as he did certainly protect himself, the *chief*, but at our expense. On meeting the pack horses, cooking operations were immediately commenced, and a plentiful supply of "leather jackets," (dough fried in a pan) served to appease us until a damper could be made. This was the only thing we had tasted in the shape of bread since the 15th, and before that period we had been on short allowance. It was certainly the most delightful meal I ever remember having partaken of. We had cleared away the scrub and made a very comfortable camp when the night set in rainy, but it could not damp the good spirits of the party. Our friends from Gipp's Land had much news to tell us of the skirmishes which were frequently taking place between the settlers and the blacks, who shortly before they left, had killed in one night forty head of cattle out of one herd. Our natives listened very attentively to these recitals, their knowledge of the English language allowing them to understand the greater part of what was said, and as they were about being employed in quieting these disturbances, they took the greater interest, as it gave them an opportunity of retaliating on their old and formidable enemies, the Gipp's Land tribes, who had invaded Westernport some years since, and had nearly annihilated a whole tribe. One of the old warriors of this tribe, who had escaped the massacre, said that his people were laying about the country like dead kangaroos. On my expressing surprise at the number that must have been killed, he construed it into an expression of unbelief.

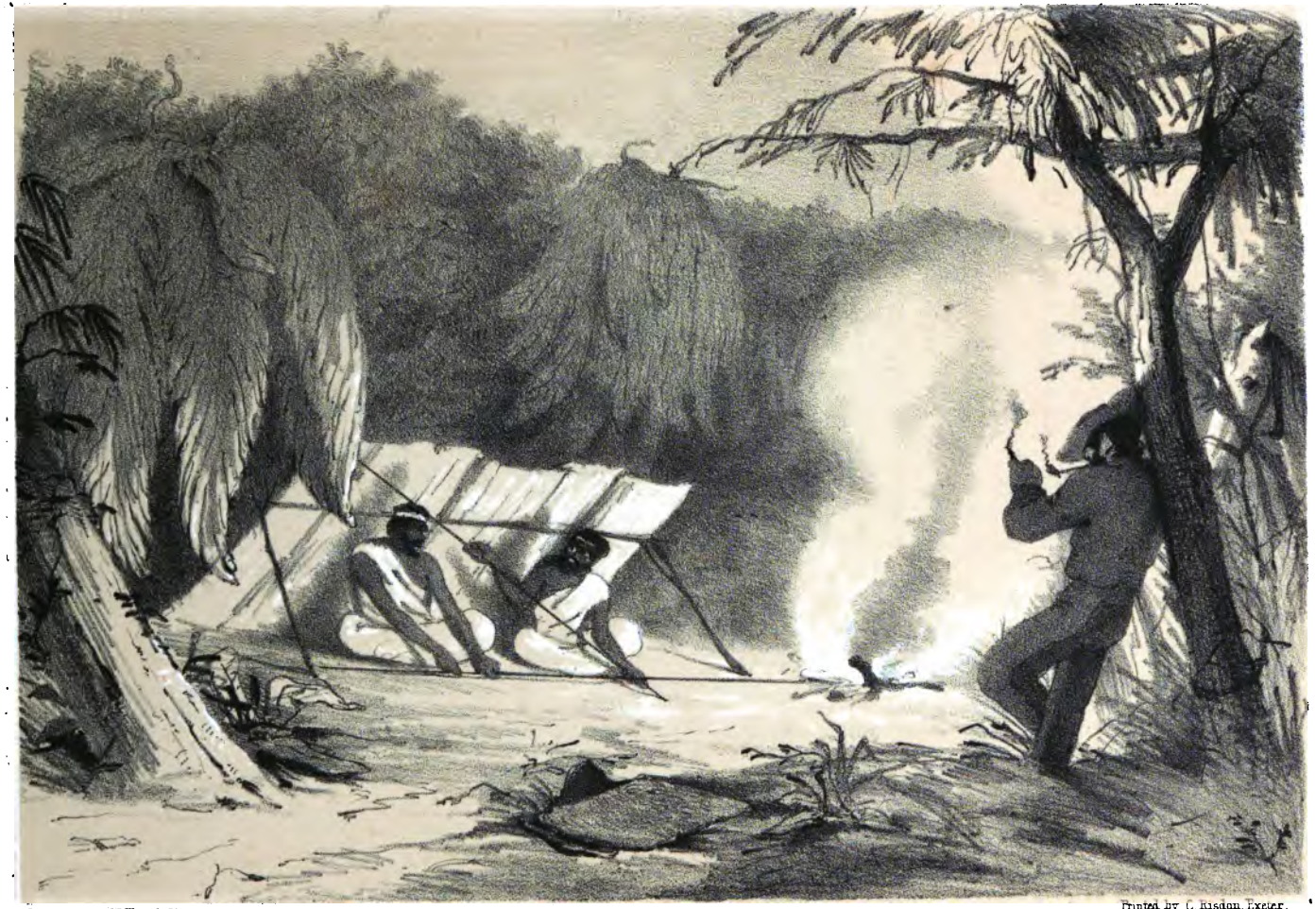
"Look at my people," said he; "where are all my brothers? do you see any old men? I am the only one. I talk with the young men. My old companions sleep at Monip." He then told me that the berber or wild blacks from Gipp's Land had surrounded the tribe one night, and having killed nearly all the men, stole the females and destroyed their children, so that few escaped. Nearly all the remnant of this tribe whose members were then young, has now entered into the native force, and makes an efficient police; being such excellent trackers, nothing can escape them when once on the trail. As the general characteristic of this people is never to forget an injury, the propriety of sending them to quiet their greatest enemies will admit of being questioned. There is very little doubt that when opportunity offered, they would execute their commission most effectually by shooting them, and what else could be expected from those who were still half savages, whose education had been commenced under the protectors. After spending a pleasant evening, we retired to our leafy beds, about eleven o'clock, but not to sleep, for our natives thinking it unfair that we should have had all the talking on our side, as soon as we had turned in, commenced singing their corobbery song. This monotonous, though somewhat musical chaunt, they continued for about an hour, when they finished by a war song, addressed to the Gipp's Land natives; threatening them that they would spear their eyes, and their breasts, and their bellies, and their arms, and their legs, &c., &c., and after all this that they would eat them up. Having disburthened themselves of this load of revengeful feelings, they retired, giving us the opportunity of taking a short sleep previous to the renewal of our journey, which we commenced early, and after cutting out of the scrub, found ourselves on some

heathy rises, which we soon passed, and cut through a small scrub to a narrow river, over which we found it necessary to make a bridge. This was soon managed, as there were great quantities of the fern tree growing on the margins of the stream; these we cut down, and rolling them in the leaves some twelve feet in length, kept a passage open for the water. Having got every thing across, we proceeded for a mile and a half, and camped on some country over which a bush fire had passed some weeks before, and which afforded our cattle a bite of sweet grass; this being the first they had tasted for several weeks. In the meantime they had subsisted on a very small quantity of oats daily, and such scanty food as the scrubs afforded. Altogether to-day made about four miles.

On Thursday the 23rd, although all who composed the original party were weak, and suffering from the effects of the long abstinence, we performed an excellent day's journey, getting through about eight miles of scrubby country. We crossed two small rivers with muddy bottoms, whilst at the second we were somewhat surprised to see a white man and a native approach us on our trail, who proved to belong to another party who were bringing down cattle, and like ourselves had run short of stores. Mr. Hobson was the European, the black named Erinini, was a native of Westernport. They had lost many cattle; a great number having been drowned at the Tarwin, and the remainder were still a great distance behind us. Mr. H. continued on his journey to Gipp's Land, to send out supplies to his expedition. We shortly after pitched our camp on a dry sand hill overgrown with myrtle and gum scrub, with but poor feed for the cattle. We were again on the move at seven o'clock on the ensuing morning, and soon got into some of the best country seen since leaving Chisholms at

Westernport, there was but little scrub to incommode us, and the stringy bark trees, although of an amazing height, were not dense enough to present any material obstacle to our progress. A tree I measured in the morning was thirty seven feet in circumference, and I judged it to have been about one hundred and seventy feet in height. The bush fires had blackened and charred it to the top, but did not appear to have injured its growth in any way. A sheet of bark striped from one of these trees, with the assistance of some spars placed across a small stream, formed an excellent covered bridge, and saved us a deal of trouble in filling in with earth. All the afternoon we passed over nothing but grass tree plains, which presented but a very dismal prospect. The stalks of these trees were from two to four feet in height, the crown of leaves about four feet, and the flower stem rising out of the midst of the fibre like foliage, from four to six feet. A great quantity of resin exuded from them. We left these plains before dusk, and pitched our camp on a rise, covered with gum scrub, and stunted stringy bark. Here one of the natives pointed out to me some tracks of kangaroos. We were now in a part of the country well known to Mr. Broadribb, who showed me to day a large gum tree, situated on the borders of a plain, and serving from its peculiar shape as a landmark to the rangers of these solitary wilds, who know it by the name of the Umbrella, from its assuming nearly that shape. We found on camping to night that we had made about eighteen miles in a straight line for Victoria township, not having had to deviate much from our direct course.

On Saturday, the 25th, after passing over some poor sandy land we found ourselves getting into a fine well grassed undulating country, lightly timbered with dwarf gum. Here we stopped awhile in order to afford the cattle



On Stone by Hy Hainfselin.

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an opportunity of picking up some food, of which they were in much need. Whilst resting, Sergeant Windridge rode off to search for a kangaroo, and found one at a short distance, which, with the assistance of his dog he succeeded in killing; this fellow stood about seven feet high, and his tail alone weighed twenty-eight pounds. He was a beauty, and "showed fight" in grand style, one moment making a dab at the dog, and then having a look at the sergeant, as if cogitating whether he should pluck him off his horse. However, the noble old dog gave him enough to do for some minutes, when his strength failing the kangaroo had the advantage of him, but not long, for a ball from the sergeant's pistol taking effect in the kangaroo's breast, effectually concluded the fray. Shortly after this we resumed our journey over the same description of country, and at 12 A.M. came upon an old dray track and some cattle tracks which we followed for several miles, when it led us to the Albert river, a narrow stream where we crossed it, but deep and wide as it approaches the bay. A good substantial wooden bridge had been built over it by Mr. E. T. Newton, one of the first settlers on the township of Victoria. After crossing this bridge and continuing on a well-formed road for about half a mile, we were delighted to see several smokes arising from a rise on our left, and shortly after were encouraged by the sight of some huts and houses, humble enough, indeed, but quite a treat to people who had seen no marks of civilization for a month. The whole population of the town of Victoria, amounting to about sixty individuals, turned out to welcome our arrival, and many were the kind invitations given to "come in and make ourselves at home." I availed myself of the kindness of my old friend, Mr. Newton, to "pick up flesh" under his hospitable roof.

My appearance on arrival was any thing but prepossessing. Not imagining on starting that I should have experienced any thing like the difficulties which we had met with, I had neglected to provide myself with a second suit of clothes, and it may well be conceived what a miserable appearance I must have made; my head was covered by an old manilla hat, minus the crown, and a piece of the brim burnt off; I had on a shooting coat with an infinity of rents, displaying a good share of a clean shirt saved carefully for this occasion. A broad belt round my body served the purpose of braces to a pair of trowsers, minus a large portion of one of the legs, and patched up with kangaroo skin, &c. &c. A pair of leather gaiters served the double purpose of protecting the lower extremities from the attacks of snakes, and also to conceal the deficiency of the lost leg, and a pair of bushman's boots completed my wardrobe. This picture will apply to almost every overlander—if those who have any notion of emigrating to any new country think they cannot endure a few disagreeables of this kind, I would strongly advise them to stay at home; but not to discourage them, I can say I have seen men of good family and college education who before leaving England had scarcely ever been out of the atmosphere of refinement, driving a plough, dressing their sheep, and doing other offices which at home they would have regarded as most degrading; and these are the only men of that stamp who can prosper. If a man has determined on living the life of a refined gentleman, if he fears to soil his hands by using an axe or doing any hard work, or if he cannot submit occasionally to act the part of his own servant, let him be assured that overland journeys would not suit him, and a colonial life would be one of misery.

The object of our journey had been gained, and a practi-

cable road had been opened by us, and before many weeks had elapsed two herds of cattle had followed it down, although with the loss of a great number which had broke away into the scrubs. The reader will naturally enquire if such a country as I have described constitutes the principal part of Australia Felix? Such land no where exists but in the portion of the country over which I have conducted my reader, and the greater portions of this although its natural state is unfit to support animal life by its productions, yet by being cultivated, would, I have no doubt, bring forth food abundantly. Such is a slight sketch of a journey in the bush, certainly having a good share of trouble attending it; but in its consequences in opening a road to a fertile country, one of great importance to Port Philip and Westernport. It is to be feared the river Tarwin at its embouchure with the sea, is too shallow to allow vessels of more than ten tons to get over the bar.

Gipp's Land afforded a fine contrast to the country we had passed over, although the good country lies upwards of fifty miles from the towns and port which we first arrived at. The sight of the beautiful plains beyond the Glengarry river, were well worth the journey. On returning, I remained in Victoria for a short period, and Mr. Robinson, and his two blacks proceeded through Gipp's Land to Menara, from thence to the Devil's river, and to Melbourne. The object of his journey still remains a mystery to me—perhaps it was intended as a blind to the government, to lead them to suppose he actually did something for his £500 a year—or had he been made acquainted with the intentions of a worthy member in the legislative council of New South Wales, who purposed shortly to take the protectorate department under his especial consideration, preparatory to bringing in a motion for their entire abolition,

on account of their uselessness? These are the only motives I ever heard assigned, and I am inclined to believe them to be very near the truth, for although the journey was made by Mr. Robinson for the alleged purpose of endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the Gipp's Land tribes, the result as far as the natives were concerned, like every thing else undertaken by the protectors, amounted to little or nothing.

CHAPTER VII.

ADVICE TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE all important question with most of those contemplating Emigration, is, as to what British Colony they shall resort for the purpose of forming their future home. From the extensive choice open, and the contradictory accounts which they will hear and read, of every one of the British possessions, this will prove most perplexing, and the more they endeavour to make their road perfectly clear, the more intricate it will appear to them. It would be presumtuous in me to say Australia Felix presents as great or greater attractions than other settlements, but these remarks I trust will be worthy of attention, from the fact that they are founded on experience—neither do I wish to draw comparisons between the place I write about and the neighbouring colonies, but it is probable that amongst the numerous writers on these subjects, the intending emigrant may *read* of places as far better calculated for colonization than Australia Felix. How is he to assure himself of the correctness of these statements or otherwise? His best resource is to ascertain who the writers may be, and then whether they have not some self interest in the place which

is represented as so very superior? If such is the case, the information must be received with caution. Should he be however perfectly satisfied of the truth of the statements, let him go; let him be assured settling in a new country is every where very much the same. Similar hardships, privations and dangers must be endured, but these once conquered, all lands do not present the same advantages in climate or natural resources—and where can there be a finer or more congenial climate, than that of Australia Felix? It is very similar to Madeira, and its only disadvantage is in the hot winds which blow occasionally during the summer months. I am so satisfied that there are thousands in England who would derive incalculable advantages from emigrating to this province, that I will not stop to enquire if there be better places for them to go to, but will at once proceed with my advice to the poor, who constituting by far the larger class who require improvement, shall engage my attention first. Even with this class, emigration should not be undertaken without due consideration, particularly by those having families. I speak indiscriminately of all colonies whatever. None should leave England who are advanced in years, or ill in health. It requires an energetic, and healthy mind, to contend with the troubles of a first settlement, and not one already bowed down by age or disease. Those who can compete with their own particular grade of life in England, should not risk their happiness by emigrating. The solitude of a life in the woods but ill accords with an Englishman's ideas of comfort. I am assuming now that all who go out intend devoting themselves to pastoral or agricultural pursuits. An intelligent man must perceive that occupation in the towns must for years be very limited, although those practicing the necessary mechanical arts, can generally meet with

remunerating engagements. The poor agricultural labourer of Britain, doomed to work hard, and live sparingly, and always in an uncomfortable state of uncertainty where he will get work from one day to another, and perhaps having only 8*s*. or less a week to support a wife and family, such a man's case requires but little consideration, matters could scarcely be worse than his, and go where he would he could hardly fail to improve his prospects. In truth, these are the men who derive the greatest advantages from emigration. On such a man's arrival in Australia Felix, he need no longer be looking for work, for the master settlers are generally so situated that they have to look for workmen. To this particular class of persons, I would submit the following facts for their perusal. Wages for any description of work have never been less than £13 a year and rations for a man, and £8 for a woman; and they have been as high as £40 for shepherds. When I left in January 1845, bush servants were earning at from £15 to £25 a year. When I mention the rate of wages, I always include rations, which are as follows, served out on all stations once a week—10lbs. of flour—14lbs. of beef or mutton—¼lb. of tea—2lbs. of sugar.

In the year 1840, when wages were very high, from £30 to £40, clothing, &c. was equally expensive, so that the labourer now with half of the wages then given, is nearly as well off as he was then. Flour in 1839 was from £50 to £80 per ton, now it is £10; cattle were from £8 to £10 a head, now they are £1; sheep were from 30*s*. to £2, now they are 5*s*. per head, and every necessary of life has experienced the same reduction, so that the labourer who may be working for himself is much better off than in 1839, when although he got a better price for his work, he expended great sums in clothing, &c. During the *bad*

times in 1843-44, when shepherds were getting £20 a year, if a man had then put by two years' wages, such was the nominal value of stock, that he could have purchased a flock of 200 sheep, and have had £20 left to carry on his station until the returns from his wool, and although then he would have been a stockholder to a limited extent, the foundation was laid with proper care and attention for a comfortable independence. But few of the labouring classes availed themselves of the opportunity that then offered, for as is too often the case, the sudden acquisition of comparative wealth had made them careless, and instead of being beneficial to them had been of infinite disadvantage in giving them opportunities of spending large sums in drink and depravity. It requires some determination in a man to resist the temptations too often held out by older hands than himself. Above all things he should leave the towns as soon after arrival as possible, and on the receipt of his wages deposit the cash in the Savings' Bank in Melbourne, and not do as he will see many others—hand it over to the tender mercies of the publicans, with a request that after he has drank it out he may be informed of it. Many of the unprincipled public-house keepers during the early days of the province amassed rapid fortunes only to be attributed to the carelessness or madness of the labourers. It was not an uncommon thing to see shepherds who had for the twelve months before been living on tea, mutton, and damper, resorting to Melbourne with their wages, and ordering champagne by the dozen. As a natural consequence on this reckless conduct, two or three days generally sufficed to leave them with empty pockets (perhaps after spending from £30 to £40 in that short space of time) and overtaken by sickness without a shilling in the world, and in a land of strangers, having no one friend on whom to look for

pity, aid, and assistance in a difficulty induced by their own folly.

Let me advise the poorer class of emigrants to endeavour to hold some decided object ever in view. By these means they will avoid many temptations which would otherwise be a continual drawback to them. In a country like Australia, it is not imperative on a man to hold the position of a menial all his life, as is the almost certain lot of many in England. Let him by steady and honest endeavours see if he cannot advance from his position; and his progress will be almost certain. By care and economy, in a few years at all events, he might have wherewith to commence a station for himself, and unlike the old country where children are regarded by the class to whom I am now addressing myself as drawbacks to their advancement, they will here find them add greatly to their chances of success. They will mutually benefit each other, and the father may have the satisfaction of seeing his children in prosperity, and himself in his old age independent; when had he remained in Britain, the workhouse would have been his portion, and hard and ill paid labour theirs. As I have before stated, the agricultural labourer is benefited before all others by emigration, because in every new country the value of his labour is known and appreciated. That the price of labour will advance rather than recede in Australia, I have little doubt, for since the Government Emigration has ceased the demand has been increasing, and in January 1845, when the first importation of Penitentiary prisoners arrived in the Colony, a measure to which most of the Colonists were very justly opposed, they were hired by the settlers at from £15 to £18 per year, and this step the Colonists were obliged to take, or make up their minds to submit to heavy losses from want of them; for free labour could not be procured at

much higher wages. If the Colonists cannot procure this grand boon for which they have paid pretty smartly, they must submit to that which the Government may please to afford them. The fact of the Penton-villains having been so eagerly caught up on arrival, will be quite sufficient to prove that the free labourer need have no fear in taking the step of Emigration. By so doing, he will not only be benefiting himself, but his fellows he leaves behind him. David Riccardo, Esq., says: "The question is not to provide the poor with bread by the hand of private charity, but to devise some means by which they may earn it for themselves." A man loses caste amongst his friends and neighbours, when it is known he lives on charity, however great his deserts—emigration presents the only means whereby many can ever hope to be independent. In fact those who will improve their prospects most in this country, are those who are most in need, the Poor.

Should Australia Felix be made an independent colony, as there is every reason to hope and believe will be the case very shortly, then will every class in it be benefited greatly, and the people being granted their just demand to lay out their own money as they think most fit, there is little doubt, but that one of their first acts would be to raise a fund to promote a free Emigration to her shores, in lieu of that bastard labour, which it appears is all the colonists are to be allowed for the present, for many thousands of pounds drawn annually from their province from its very commencement.

Perhaps the men to whom this country presents the fewest attractions and advantages, are those who with little or no capital are incapable from previous habits of life, education, &c., of doing any laborious work. The principal talent required here for the present lies in a muscular arm,

not in a well-informed head. Learning in the common acceptance of the term is but poorly appreciated, and in fact is decidedly not as necessary as in a more advanced state of society. Manual labour will for many years be better paid, and be in greater repute than any other talent. Some of the well educated are content to take situations as accountants, reporters, overseers, &c., &c., but it cannot fail to be noticed, that a demand for this description of persons in a new country must be very limited. I can give no better advice to them on their arrival than to reduce themselves to labourers if they can—remembering, that by thus humbling themselves, it is a stepping stone whereby they may attain a real position in society.* One great use of emigration, is to abolish that silly pride which is so prevalent in old countries, preventing many from doing that which their conscience tells them would be right. In England one is bound down by certain arbitrary rules, which if he dares to act contrary to, he lowers himself in the estimation of many. In Australia, there are none who have the time or are willing to scrutinize their neighbours so closely as to report upon what particular description of cloth his coat may be made of; but few would stop to enquire whether he wore one at all.

Many of the heads of colonial society were originally "hewers of wood and drawers of water;" and if wealth is chief end of their exertions, their ambition is doubtless satisfied. But these are not the men to sympathize with the struggles of a new beginner in the troubled waters of a colonial life. The new arrival must make up his mind to struggle manfully against every disadvantage, trusting to himself alone; and here I may advise him not to place too great faith in any letters of introduction, which kind friends

* See Arden's Pamphlet.

may have procured for him—most of them will be useless, others actually injurious if he has anything to loose. Allow me to tell him a "true tale" for his especial guidance.

Two gentlemen of good family, and well supplied with cash, arrived in Melbourne in 1843, bearing with them letters of introduction to many worthy and unworthy men, amongst others was one to an agent which unfortunately for them was amongst one of the first delivered. Of course they were well received—all new comers *are*—particularly if it is known they have lots of cash. On mentioning that they intended purchasing stock, their new friend hailed their telling him so as a most fortunate occurrence, as he could put an excellent chance in their way of getting a lot cheap—dirt cheap—300 head of prime cattle at *only* £8 per head, (the best could then have been purchased at £4) and a station given in. Well, the station "given in" sounded very liberal; but even with such a bait the strangers requested time to consider of it. Of course this was granted, and an answer was to be given the next day and both rose to leave, but the agent knew that if they once left the house his chances of selling were but poor. And a polite request to take another glass of wine was accepted; presently a violent knocking was heard at the door.—*Enter, Servant.*—"Mr. M., 'A Gent.' wants you." Mr. M. enters the room again with a most important and business-like air. "Exceedingly sorry, gentlemen, but I have just had a most liberal offer for the stock I mentioned to you. Of course I could give no decided answer without first mentioning the circumstance. I am offered £8 a-head without the station, and am to give an answer by the evening.—[Parenthetically or musingly.]—"Aye, aye, cattle are rising are they!"—"Well, gents, am I to consider you are off your bargain; you see I am placed somewhat awkwardly between my two

customers.—[Musingly.]—"The station too is a great object to be given in." Well, the two innocents were induced that very hour to sign a paper agreeing to give £8 per head for cattle, worth £4 at the utmost. Thus it will be seen the high value of many letters of introduction to some people—the agent to wit—and that there are some in Australia Felix, who like the Yankee traders, "never steal—they only gain the advantage." I could multiply instances where letters of introduction have been the means of doing much mischief; but I think this single case will suffice to point out to those lately arrived the necessity of not being hasty in making their bargains. In fact, if a man intend speculating in any way, he must not hope to derive much benefit without first endeavouring to learn from different sources the true state of the markets, and this is not to be learnt in a week or a month. He may think after the fact I have just related, that he would not be entrapped by such devices, and that from this one act of dishonesty, he has learnt to withstand all the beguiling attacks of unprincipled agents; but he would find himself mistaken, these men are not confined to any favourite mode of procedure, but their tricks are as varied as the circumstances under which they are employed: and they never fail to defraud the stranger, too ready to rely on any who may offer him a friendly reception in a land foreign to his feelings and habits. From the foregoing remarks, I would not have my reader form a hasty conclusion that business is always carried on in a similar loose and un-English manner, for it is not the case. If it came within my province, I could name firms, and individuals engaged in agency, and mercantile pursuits, whose modes of business are as pure and liberal as those of the same occupations in England or any other great commercial country.

If my space admitted, I should wish to say a few words on the separation of Australia Felix from New South Wales, which event I trust may soon take place without my humble advocacy. I trust I have succeeded in giving some really useful information about this splendid portion of Australia. A place of such comparatively recent discovery cannot be expected to have yet engaged that attention which it so richly deserves.

APPENDIX.

A short Vocabulary of native words used by the Woeworong, Bournourong, and Barrable tribes inhabiting country in the neighbourhood of Port Phillip.

Marmayadna	God
Bundyil-carno	Devil
Amijec	White Man
Colin	Black Man
Culka-tarnook	Horse
Coim and Core	Kangaroo
Wallerd	Oppossum
Bamun	Ringtail Opossum
Nerrinen	Black Cockatoo
Tolaiworong	Platybus
Tallon-arrons	Shark
Barbewor	Stingray
Tingin	Porpoise
Batile	Whale
Yorne	Frog
Boeyot	Fern tree
Berber	Mother
Marma	Father
Oernderlong	Brother
Laoworagick	Sister
Cowong	Head
Ningin	Forehead
Barding	Knee
Bobobetinnong	Toes
Leang	Teeth
Yarra-unduc	Moustache
Yarra-boop	Hair of the Head
Boto	Liver
Borone	Night
Yarrabing	White Gum
Terrong	Tree
Moeyong	Blackwood
Wiyal	Peppermint tree
Monarm	Mangrove
Boroborobin	Native Vine
Coeyon	Jagged Spear
Terer	Reed Spear
Narragourt	Round Shield
Mulga	Heavy Shield
Yincorrobun	Dream
Boronedote	To-night
Woorcourdin	Black
Tarndourdin	White
Yalla-nibberon	Blanket
Omum	Opossum Cloak
Paring	A trail
Nulem	No good
Monameet	Very good
Yauna-tue	Get away
Conye! Conye!	Look! Look!
Dit Courda	Be quiet
Eurong-e	Go on
Nia bitomeme	Don't talk
Burra	Wait
Murn	The Eye
Tanganen	To eat
Obien	To drink
Nalingo	To go
Bruckuck	To draw
Pilmelaly	To steal
Kwomby	A sleeping place

NAMES OF PLACES.

Narme	Port Phillip
Powel	French Island
Worne	Phillip Island
Mayune	F. Ruffey's Station
Mullum Mullum	Mundy's Station
Torourdun	Manton's Station
Brobinyandger	Rutherford's Stations
Tobinyallock	Jamieson's Stations.